

# ohiotoday

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF OHIO UNIVERSITY



Fall 2015: **Milestones**





## Features

### LANDMARKS BIT BY BIT

**14** Molecular biologist Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, PHD '76, stands apart from every other Bobcat since the founding of Ohio University in 1804. He won a Nobel Prize—the only Green-and-White person to do so. Ramakrishnan reached this milestone, in chemistry, in 2009 for investigating the ribosome. He answered e-mail questions about his career and family, upbringing and OHIO, and much more. In fact, the alum responded to additional queries that appear online.

### MAKING GOOD—ACTUALLY, GREAT—ON A PROMISE

**20** Eight years ago, OHIO began *The Promise Lives Campaign* to raise \$450 million for the University. At the appeal's conclusion in June, the total surpassed \$500 million. We explain this milestone via the impact on key constituents such as students and faculty. The centerpiece image riffs on the cover of *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, the 1967 rock album by the Beatles. Adapting one of its songs, OHIO received more than a little help from its friends.

## Departments

- 1 President's message**  
**From the editor**
- 2 Letters to the editor**
- 3 Your OHIO**  
Alumni answer a fun question.
- 4 Across the College Green**  
Recent and unfolding developments about OHIO people, entities, initiatives, pursuits, activities, events—and more!
- 34 Bobcat tracks**  
Alumni history, perspective, photos, news, and announcements.
- 44 In Memoriam**
- 46 Bobcat brainteaser**
- 48 Last Word**  
Q&A with an OHIO faculty or staff member.

## More Bobcat advances

If milestones signify progress, then Ohio University is well on its way to a brighter future. A new campus in Cleveland [see page 26], a new housing complex on the Athens Campus [see page 6], and a half-billion dollar capital campaign [see page 20] are among the causes for celebration in recent months.

Landmark occasions such as these are particularly exciting for those of us who remember the moments and conversations that sparked such massive undertakings. Witnessing the synergies and people power that lead to defining moments in OHIO's proud history is nothing short of incredible!

Every day, the University builds upon the accomplishments of our past. Every day, we are turning visions into realities for the benefit of future generations. This issue of *Ohio Today* provides just a small sampling of the milestones that are shaping Ohio University's future. In marking these occasions, we celebrate the continued transformation of Ohio University and the ways in which these initiatives propel our students forward.

Cordially,



**Roderick J. McDavis**

President

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**ABOVE:** A two-story Living Learning Center, with smart classrooms and flex offices, unites the four new residence halls on the Athens Campus. Guests attend the opening ceremony of the complex in August. PHOTO BY JOEL PRINCE, BSVC '12

**LEFT:** Kathryn Safreed, a junior strategic communication major, three-time national champion for the Speaking Bobcats, and this year's team captain, receives strategy on informative speaking from coach Dan West in March 2014.

PHOTO BY YI-KE PENG, MA '16 **ON THE COVER:** Venkatraman Ramakrishnan, PHD '76, a winner of the 2009 Nobel Prize in chemistry for studies of the ribosome, poses in front of an image he created of the structure of a ribosome. PHOTO BY MAX ALEXANDER

## FROM THE EDITOR

### OHIO marks you

Recall your time in higher education, and you invariably reference milestones.

You studied something that might have led to your career. You underwent firsts: academic, professional, social, personal. You financed your schooling one way or another. You made friends, possibly lifelong. You assumed new responsibilities, tested new boundaries, experienced new freedoms, explored new ways. Many of you moved away from home. You joined, participated, attended, witnessed, competed, created—influential, all. You changed, maybe, or

reinvented, and certainly grew. You dated classmates and perhaps found your spouse in one. And you learned from professors who perforce teach and pursue milestones.

This edition surveys Bobcat turning points. The inspiration for the theme came from the astonishing success of the University's *Promise Lives* fundraising campaign. Causes and effects of this generosity—\$500 million in donations over the last eight years—speak well of the institution. Just as your OHIO milestones bespeak you. —Peter Szatmary

### EVIDENCE OF A PROMISE KEPT



Look for this icon throughout the edition for insight into some of the places where the \$500 million committed to *The Promise Lives Campaign* is supporting students, faculty, programs, outreach, and facilities.



### Emotional rescue

This diehard fan of the Rolling Stones was pleased to get some satisfaction in the summer 2015 edition after feeling very frustrated when their November 1969 gig at the Convo was canceled last-minute. As a man of wealth and taste, I enjoyed reading that the Ohio University Singers performed backup on "You Can't Always Get What You Want" at a recent show in Columbus. But I never got to hear Mick Jagger and Keith Richards at OHIO because the Student Activities Board and the band's booking agent ran out of time on negotiations. The rockers were supposed to play for the unheard-of price of \$6 for general admission seats only. An ad for a concert by The Who—same month, same venue—listed prices at \$2.50 and \$3. After the Stones debacle, the campus entertainment chair was more unpopular than Richard Nixon!

—Charles Herms, BGS '73, Oxford, Ohio

### Bittersweet news

I don't usually feel joy at the passing of an old friend, but I experienced that paradox when coming across David Viradet Kreng, BSEE '67, in summer's "In Memoriam." The joy was not because of his death, but because of his life! We attended the electrical engineering program together, and Vitty, as he was called, often visited my wife,

Linda, and me at our humble apartment in the old barracks—married-student apartments—on East State Street. Vitty was concerned that his visa wouldn't be renewed after graduation and that he would have to go back to his homeland of Cambodia in an era of government oppression and brutality, murder of educated people, and outright genocide. After graduation, we lost track of one another, and Linda and I worried about him. Upon his death, we were relieved and thrilled to learn that Vitty had lived well in the U.S. all these years! He worked for Bechtel, the engineering, project management, and construction company. Vitty raised three daughters with his wife in Southern California. All survive him. A video on the Internet featured Vitty and his great work for Cambodian refugees. An obituary in the *Long Beach Press-Telegram* hailed him as "instrumental in helping Cambodian refugees after the Khmer Rouge" and "patriarch of Long Beach's robust Cambodian community"—the largest population of Cambodians outside of Southeast Asia. What a well-spent 76 years; what worthwhile contributions to humanity!

—Andy Elliott, BSEE '67, Reynoldsburg, Ohio

### Trailblazing newspaperwomen

I was thrilled to read in the summer 2015 issue that the 2015-16 editor of *The Post* is

Emma Ockerman. ... There is a long, rich tradition of female *Post* editors, started, as writer Lindsey Burrows noted, by Mary Elizabeth Lasher in 1941. [See the correction below.] ... In my four years, I worked under two, Ann Gynn, BSJ '93, and Bethany Matsko, BSJ '94, before serving as editor my senior year. In fact, during the 1990s, there were seven female editors. ... These examples of powerful women leading strong teams served me well in my career. While I was working as a managing editor in Cincinnati and preparing to have my first child, my publisher expressed concern that it would be the first time the paper experienced an ME on maternity leave. You can bet I did everything in my power to ensure everything went smoothly. Thanks to some amazing colleagues and a bit of planning, my maternity leave worked out so well I did it again three years later.

—Andrea Tortora, BSJ '95, Peoria, Illinois

► For more letters, go online to [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras).

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**WRITE TO US.** Ohio Today welcomes letters from readers. We reserve the right to edit for grammar, space, clarity, and civility. Send letters by e-mail to [ohiotoday@ohio.edu](mailto:ohiotoday@ohio.edu) or by mail to 213 McKee House, 1 Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701. We regret that we cannot publish all letters in print or online.



### Correction

An editing error in the summer edition caused the misspelling of the last name of the first female editor of *The Post*. Mary Elizabeth Lasher led OHIO's independent, student-run newspaper in 1941. As Julia Zimmerman, former dean of Ohio University Libraries and current dean of university libraries at Florida State University, explained in one of several communications from readers about the mistake, "After leaving Ohio University, Mary Lib had a career in journalism that was exceptional for a woman in those times and worthy of a story all its own. She has been a benefactor to the University and is truly one of Ohio University's noteworthy alumnae." Zimmerman added, "Her father was George Starr Lasher, founder and director of the Ohio University School of Journalism, for whom Lasher Hall is named."

Mary Elizabeth Lasher (center) and staff members ready *The Post* in this photo from the 1941 *Athena*. PHOTO COURTESY OF MAHN CENTER FOR ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



## Lights! Camera! Bobcats!

The Athena Cinema turned 100 this year. See page 28 for more coverage. Here, Bobcat alumni share edited memories of the Court Street landmark. —Editor Peter Szatmary

Saw *Love Story* on Valentine's Day 1971.  
—Deb Dostal, BSED '71

In the late 1980s, my then-boyfriend and I saw *U2: Rattle and Hum*, sharing our love of that band's music. Twenty-seven years later, my husband and I have seen the band a few more times, including with our two kids, 18 and 14 years old.

—Jill Luetkemeyer Sessions, BSCHS '90

My roommate and I were asked out by two students we hardly knew. They invited us to go to the movies after having a light dinner. By the time we got to the theater, we knew this was not working, so we excused ourselves to go to the restroom, decided we wanted to end the date, walked out of the theater, and never saw them again!

—Elaine Clabeaux, BSHE '56

My husband and I had our first (although unofficial) date at the Athena. He put his arm around me during *Saw II* in October 2005. Five years later, we married, and 10 years later, we have a baby.

—Cait Jacob Denny, BSED '08

*Star Wars*, fall 1977. My first date at OHIO. And no, we didn't get married.

—Jeffrey Bobeck, AB '81

As a freshman in 1973, I was asked to *The African Queen* at the 67-cent movie. My date said at the box office window, "One ticket, please." So I paid my own way! I also remember midnight movies and how popular *Reefer Madness* and *The Kentucky Fried Movie* were.

—Karen Bothwell Siberini, BSC '77

In 1984, I worked on *Heart and Soul*. Shot regionally, it was released in February 1985 as *Mischief*. The official premiere was in

My first viewing of *Wet Hot American Summer* was there [at the Athena Cinema]. Also saw a late-night screening of *The Exorcist*. Terrifying!

—Marisa Peters Hirsch, BSJ '04

Film buffs and Athena supporters stand in line to celebrate the centennial of the movie palace.

PHOTO BY GARY KIRKSEY, MA '86



Columbus on the 7<sup>th</sup> but because so many OHIO students had worked on the film, there was an Athens premiere opening night on the 8<sup>th</sup>. It was great to experience it with the cast but even better to experience it with so many friends who had worked on it.

—Tom Ryan, BSC '87

Fall quarter freshman year, nearly my entire floor in Fenzel House saw *Pulp Fiction* opening night. Even in Athens there was a huge line! Having spent four years working on the Athens International Film & Video Festival, I saw so many important and amazing films at the Athena.

—Gretchen Douglass, BFA '98

When I lived in Athens (1950-70), there were two theaters on Court Street [the Athena and the since-defunct Varsity]. In 1964, the Athena showed an "electronovision" presentation [video-to-film transfer of a live performance] of *Hamlet* so that plebes across the country could see Richard Burton in the lead [of the Broadway staging]. He was so-so. But I am quite sure that the Bard had Hume Cronyn in mind for Polonius. I saw many more films in OHIO's Memorial Auditorium through MIA (the Men's Independent Association and, later, Movies-In-Auditorium) than on Court Street.

—Charles Randall, BS '69

Most of my moviegoing was MIA at MemAud. The movies cost only a quarter.

—Deborah Raita, AB '73

My freshman year in 1986, the Athena showed *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* every weekend, and my friends and I went every weekend. I still have the movie pretty much memorized.

—Julie Komerofsky Remer, BSJ '90

When I took Sociology 101, the social sciences building was undergoing renovation, so we had class in the Athena. The professor showed *The Matrix* as part of the course, and we got to watch it on the big screen.

—Magen Howard, BSJ '06

I saw screenwriter Joe Eszterhas' *Showgirls* there my first night at college. [Eszterhas attended OHIO in the 1960s.]

—Mark Szczepanik, BSJ '99

My sons, 5 and 7 years old, saw *E. T. the Extra-Terrestrial* while I was doing my graduate studies.

—Jose Franco, MAIA '83

Waiting in line at midnight, in costume, for the opening of *Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith*.

—Bhaskar Raman, MS '06

**NEXT ISSUE'S QUESTION:** What reinvention did you undergo or witness at OHIO? Send letters to 213 McKee House, 1 Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701; e-mails to [ohiotoday@ohio.edu](mailto:ohiotoday@ohio.edu); or posts to the Ohio University Alumni Association's Facebook page (by "liking" us on the site).

## Milestone

The trail winds on across a hundred meadows  
and over forty hills and down through thirty glens—  
the hour is long, the day is long  
yet the month is oddly brief  
and this week somehow just became last week—

can we not turn around and walk those miles again?  
We cannot. We follow our trail, a trail we try to choose,  
a trail others have followed, though we make  
our fascinating variations, diverging here and there  
through weeds, or flowers, across  
a hundred meadows, forty hills, thirty shaded glens ...

A moment comes when we need to feel more sure  
we're going *somewhere*—getting somewhere—  
that's when we set into the turf another milestone:  
for whatever it's worth, we did reach this point.  
We got this far!  
So hand me that tassel, hand me that cap and gown,  
and scriveners, listen up and set this down:

Absurdity holds a full house and infinity may  
have many more aces to play  
but we did reach this point today.  
*Childe Roland to the Dark Tower came*  
and we're this many meadows along in the game.



— Mark Halliday was named a Distinguished Professor of English at OHIO in 2011. He has published six books of poetry, including, mostly recently, *Thresherphobe* (University of Chicago Press, 2013).





## NUMBERING THE MILESTONES

**F**all enrollment broke several OHIO records. The freshman class of 4,423 is the largest first-year group in school history, according to preliminary data, up 1 percent from last year. The 618 freshmen multicultural students, the most ever, equate to a 1.4 percent increase from last year. The average high school GPA, 3.46, and average ACT composite, 24.1, of freshmen also top previous incoming marks. And undergraduate and graduate students at all campuses and eLearning programs total more than 40,000, an institutional watershed and boost of 2.3 percent over last year. Read about the making of this photo of the class of 2019 at [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras). —Megan Henry, BSJ '18

PHOTO BY BEN SIEGEL, BSVC '02





## In the News



### MAKING THE GRADE

Ohio University's Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs ranks as the 39<sup>th</sup> most innovative public service school in the U.S. for 2015, according to Best Value Schools. The resource praised the institution's "interests in the environment, community organizations, the economy, public-private partnerships, research, and of course leadership." Making the Best Value Schools list reinforces how OHIO is "a platform for developing innovative solutions to challenges facing our community, region, state, and nation," said Mark Weinberg, Voinovich School founding dean. —Megan Henry, BSJ '18

### DEFINING EXCELLENCE, AGAIN

Ohio University's Department of Sports Administration took top honors in three categories in *SportBusiness International's* 2015 review of programs: master's of sports administration (MSA), graduates' choice, and online professional master's in sports administration (PMSA).

"We pioneered sports business education and are consistently recognized as the best

in the field," said Hugh Sherman, dean of the College of Business.

OHIO introduced the MSA in 1966. It previously ranked No. 1 in 2012 and 2013. OHIO's PMSA, debuting in 2010, reigned supreme in 2014. Assessment metrics include employment and salary statistics following graduation, student satisfaction and diversity, quality of teaching, and alumni support.

"Our extensive network of Bobcat alumni working in the field contribute time and expertise, adding to the richness of the program," said Norm O'Reilly, department chair. —Jessica Gardner, director of communications, College of Business

### TAKING GOOD CARE

Counseling and Psychological Services (CPS) celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with an evening reception on Dec. 5 at Baker University Center. "CPS has helped tens of thousands of OHIO students navigate the social, academic, and personal challenges they faced while attending the University," said Director Alfred Weiner. "During this time, CPS developed a doctoral internship program

for psychologists and a training program for graduate students in counselor education and social work to prepare future generations of therapists." —Editor Peter Szatmary

### LEADING THE WAY

Ohio University Press reached two milestones in May. Five of its titles made *Library Journal's* African studies bestseller list, including biographies of political leaders and examinations of women's issues. The total outranked all other publishers—besting counterparts at Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, and Yale. "These achievements reflect well on our series New African Histories and Ohio Short Histories of Africa, which feature clear, accessible writing," said Gillian Berchowitz, director of Ohio University Press. Founded in 1964, it releases 40 to 50 books annually in African studies, Appalachian studies, Ohio interest, gardening, fiction, poetry, and military history. See [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras) for more information.

—Samara Rafert, Ohio University Press publicist

► Go online to [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras) for more news.



### Digging the digs

August marked the grand opening of Phase I of the University's three-phase Housing Development Plan. The two-year, \$110 million expansion erected four new residence halls—named for Bobcats Arthur Carr, Evelyn Coulter Luchs, Claude Sowle, and Tomoyasu and Sumiko Tanaka and cumulatively accommodating 912 beds in suite-style living—and a central Living Learning Center. They're situated on the South Green on the former site of the Wolfe Street Apartments and adjacent lots. The construction used some 825,000 bricks. Devyn Schaper, BS '19, who lives in Luchs, called the facilities "very nice" and "spacious." —Megan Henry, BSJ '18

The Singing Men of Ohio entertain as part of a day's worth of events and festivities kicking off the latest residential building project at the University. PHOTO BY JOEL PRINCE, BSVC '12





## Lights out on lighting up

**T**he smoke cleared on the Athens Campus on Aug. 1. That's when OHIO's new tobacco-free policy took effect. Regional campuses implement it on their own timelines.

The policy ([ohio.edu/tobacco-free](http://ohio.edu/tobacco-free)) applies to the entire University community—students, employees, visitors, volunteers, customers, patients, etc.—and defines “the use of tobacco or smoking products ... as all nicotine, tobacco-derived or -containing products, and plant-based products including, but not limited to, cigarettes, electronic cigarettes, cigars and cigarillos, hookah-smoked products, and oral tobacco.” Locations encompass “facilities, property, and grounds used to carry out the mission of the University,” “sidewalks adjacent to University buildings and grounds,” and “personal vehicles on University property.”

OHIO's tobacco-free task force serves as monitor. And students can volunteer as “Tobacco-Free Campus Ambassadors.”

This policy stemmed from a 2012 recommendation by the Ohio Board of Regents. Bobcats join counterparts at 1,500-plus smoke- or tobacco-free U.S. colleges and universities, lists the American Nonsmokers Rights' Foundation.

OHIO began introducing smoke-free policies in the early 1990s. This latest iteration is comprehensive, covering indoors and outdoors. OHIO offered its first tobacco cessation clinic in 1993 through its WellWorks wellness program. Currently, the University's Health Promotion Department facilitates cessation classes for students and OHIO's Tobacco-Free Initiative for employees.

Almost 18 percent of adults smoke in the U.S.—42 million people—and the habit causes more than 480,000 deaths annually, tabulates the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Those yearly fatalities nationwide include 50,000 victims of secondhand smoke, finds the American Lung Association. Of college-age or college students, 4.9 percent have used e-cigarettes, 8.7 percent smokeless tobacco, 10.7 percent cigars, 16.4 percent cigarettes, and 24.2 percent hookah wares, per various research. —Cathy Lee, MA '07, tobacco-free campus coordinator, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs at OHIO



**ABOVE:** Making a point, holding a smoke, per the 1965 *Athena* yearbook. PHOTO COURTESY OF MAHN CENTER FOR ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS **BELOW:** OHIO students and community residents spruce up Court Street at Athens Beautification Day last spring. PHOTO BY ELIZABETH HELD, BSVC '14



### Other numbers about OHIO's latest healthy milestone:

- 1½ pounds of cigarette butts picked up around Peden Stadium during the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Athens Beautification Day last April, the most of all tobacco litter collected during the city/University outreach, including nine Athens Campus sites. Total cigarette butts purged everywhere: 7,000 to 8,000.
- Three months of nicotine replacement therapy provided free through the University to students who complete the American Cancer Society's Freshstart Program on tobacco cessation at OHIO. Six-month supply available free through prescription to employees attempting to quit tobacco, via the benefits package.
- \$5.30 for a pack of Pall Malls, the cheapest cigarette brand at Union Street Market in Athens, after the recent state tax increase to 35 cents per pack. Annual cost for pack-a-day smokers: \$1,934.50.
- 21 presentations about OHIO's tobacco-free policy by task force employees and students so far.
- \$5.6 billion in healthcare spent annually in Ohio on tobacco-related illness, details a 2014 national report, *Broken Promises to Our Children*. —Cathy Lee





**LEFT:** OHIO's Frank van Graas helps make flying more efficient. PHOTO BY ASHLEY STOTTLEMYER **ABOVE:** A GBAS antenna at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey in December 2012. PHOTO BY FRANK VAN GRAAS

► To read more about GBAS, go online to [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras).

## Smoother landings, thanks to OHIO

**W**hen it comes to landing an aircraft, precision counts. For decades, OHIO researchers have worked with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to correct deviations in global positioning system (GPS) signals. They developed a Ground Based Augmentation System (GBAS) that reduces the vertical error in GPS from 30 feet to only a few inches.

Frank van Graas, PHD '88, Russ Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at OHIO, and colleagues at the University's Avionics Engineering Center designed the first prototype in the early 1990s. The FAA has invested about \$100 million on refinement and testing, van Graas estimates, and OHIO about \$20 million. A version is available for airports to purchase through Honeywell.

The FAA maintains rigorous safety standards, so it can take years for a milestone like GBAS to be put into practice. "The probability of an error in the system must be less than one in a billion landings," van Graas says.

Newark Liberty International Airport and Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport installed GBAS a few years ago. Airlines including United and Delta now request the onboard technology

required for it when ordering new planes. So far, airlines have conducted about 2,000 GBAS-assisted landings in the U.S.

The system employs four antennas, about 10 feet tall, to capture GPS signals that planes get from satellites and then send to a central computer. The computer determines the signals' error and communicates it to a device on the airplane. That device makes a more accurate calculation about the airplane's location.

Airports already utilize an instrument landing system (ILS) of radio signals and flashing lights. But GBAS saves money, van Graas explains. It handles up to 48 approaches at once; ILS can manage only one at a time. Thus, ILS must be installed on every runway; one GBAS network suffices per airport. GBAS also permits pilots to fly shorter routes, reducing fuel.

Although GBAS and ILS are considered equally safe, pilots seem to prefer GBAS, especially "on the signal stability," says Shelly Beauchamp, manager of the Navigation Branch at the FAA William J. Hughes Technical Center near Atlantic City, New Jersey. "They'll touch down at just the same point every time they do it," she adds.

—Amy Nordrum, BSJ '10, is a freelance science writer in New York City. Her credits include *Scientific American* and *Popular Mechanics*.

## Eyes still on the prize

**Editor's note:** Each edition of Ohio Today covers a recent Ohio University Press book. For alumni authors, see page 43.

Marian Spencer epitomizes milestones in Cincinnati civil rights. She successfully sued to desegregate the city's Coney Island amusement park so her sons could go there, campaigned to raise awareness of toxic waste in minority neighborhoods, and served as vice mayor. Spencer also was the first black female president of the Cincinnati branch of the NAACP, first black president of the Woman's City Club of Greater Cincinnati, and the first black woman on the city council. Thus, Spencer has been honored by the Ohio Senate, received a Cincinnati proclamation announcing a "Marian Spencer Day," and had an educational building named after her (with her late husband, Donald).

And now another milestone: *Keep on Fighting: The Life and Civil Rights Legacy of Marian A. Spencer*, written by Dorothy H. Christenson and published by Ohio University Press. The biography began as a project between friends to record Spencer's memories for her family. It wound up significantly more. Historian Mary E. Frederickson, of Miami University, writes in the introduction, "Marian Spencer's story weaves together the private and the public in a way that provides a new understanding of the adage from the 1970s women's movement, 'the personal is political.' ... [Spencer] has much to teach the subsequent generations about resistance, equality, and the meaning of American freedom."

The book opens with the former Marian Alexander's childhood in Gallipolis, Ohio. Born in 1920 as the older of unexpected identical twins, she developed convictions about equality early, through the influence of her grandfather, a former slave. One formative moment occurred when the patriarch urged the progeny to stay on the balcony of their family general and hardware store to watch the Ku Klux Klan march.



"He felt that, if we understood the KKK's purpose was to intimidate us, we would learn not to be afraid," Spencer recalled in the book.

She took that fearlessness to heart, and, in Donald Spencer—whom she met as a student at the University of Cincinnati and married in 1940—found an ally. The couple built a partnership on mutual support and shared values. "Anything I started he would join and anything he started I would join," Spencer said in a phone interview. "We had talked at length as we dated about our beliefs and what we'd like to change in society, and that's the way we worked."

When Donald, a prominent real estate agent, was named a trustee of Ohio University, the couple established the Donald and Marian Spencer Endowment for the African American Library Collection. (Donald, the first African-American to chair the University's board of trustees, died in 2010.)

For Christenson, the book prompted reconsideration of Cincinnati history. She



**LEFT:** Marian and Donald Spencer stroll in Hot Springs, Arkansas, in 1954. **ABOVE:** Left to right: Cincinnati City Councilman Tom Brush; Melvin Jones, Cincinnati NAACP president; Wendell Young, a Cincinnati police officer; Spencer; and Ohio Secretary of State Sherrod Brown convene during the 1985 city council campaign. PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARIAN SPENCER

► More about the subject and author of the book are at [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras).

co-volunteered with Spencer for decades on numerous social justice causes. Still, "This [biography] exposed me to the white privilege that I've had—I had never considered these things from the perspective of a person who had to deal with it every day," Christenson said in a phone interview.

For example, the Spencers—recipients of honorary degrees from OHIO—took their two sons on road trips around the country. However, it was unusual for black families to do so in the 1940s and 50s, and they relied on a *Guide for Colored Travelers*, published by the Urban League, for places to travel, eat, and stay safely. *Keep on Fighting* "is a history lesson about how America treated its black citizens during the 20<sup>th</sup> century," Christenson said.

Spencer, 95, concurred in an interview. She hopes readers "will take from the history that it's important to stand up for the things you believe, and to express them as you live. Too many people are silent when they should speak up. I've never had that problem." —Samara Rafert



## Joycelyn Elders to Celebrate Women



The Ohio University Lancaster Campus and Pickerington Center will mark their 10<sup>th</sup> annual *Celebrate Women* conference with a keynote

speech by Joycelyn Elders. The first African American surgeon general of the U.S., she was appointed in September 1993 by President Bill Clinton and forced to resign 15 months later for her progressive and controversial opinions. Elders, a pediatrician by training, addresses Bobcats on March 18, 2016.

Previous headliners include human rights activist Naomi Tutu in 2015 and NBC4 (Columbus, Ohio) news anchor Mindy Drayer in 2006. About 85 people attended the debut in 2006, some 230 last year. Daylong festivities—workshops, student research presentations, and more—coincide with National Women's History Month.

"Celebrate Women is so rejuvenating," said committee co-chair Pam Kaylor, PHD '02, an instructor in women's and gender studies and in communication, offering "different tracks of learning for women in business, academia, and the community in both their personal and professional lives." For previous *Celebrate Women* keynote speakers, go online to [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras). —Cheri Russo, BSJ '96, MS '07, former communications and marketing manager at Lancaster

## New rubric

What's in a name? A lot. In June, OHIO adopted a policy allowing students to choose a preferred name and gender pronoun for self-identification, following similar practices already in place at the school's Campus Care and Counseling and Psychological Services.

Desired monikers—middle names, nicknames, etc.—pertain in all cases except when legal names must appear, for instance, admission applications, financial aid documents, enrollment and degree verification, and reports to state and federal agencies. Student ID cards include both preferred and legal names. Read more at [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras). —Maygan Beeler, BSJ '17

## OHIO honors ADA

Ohio University celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) in October with 26 events, including lectures, workshops, and arts. In the kickoff, OHIO President Roderick J. McDavis, BSED '70, and Athens Mayor Paul Wiehl signed an affirming proclamation. Eighteen OHIO units contributed to the month-long occasion.

"This country and this University are continuing to take strides in making life seamless, without barriers, for people who live with disabilities," said Carolyn Bailey Lewis, PHD '07, EMERT '13, an instructor in the School of Media Arts and Studies at the Scripps College of Communication at OHIO, and a person who lives with a disability. "This milestone in civil rights is a time to reflect on how far we have come and how far we still have to go in educating, advocating, and being change agents about inclusion and accessibility."

For 2015-16 at OHIO, of a total student population of 39,201, 1,527 identify as a person with a disability (1,138 on the Athens Campus, 389 on regional campuses). Types of disability range from mobility, 1.1 percent; to medical, 9.2 percent; to psychological, 15.2 percent; to multiple categories, 25 percent.

The aforementioned developments form only the latest in the University's mindfulness to prohibit discrimination against individuals with disabilities. Other 2015 examples: adding accessible locker room facilities and pool lifts in the Aquatic Center (July), holding the first commencement with a fully accessible design for graduates (May), and installing 12 obelisks on the College Green to designate accessible north-south and east-west pathways to ensure navigation for people with disabilities (April). —Carey L. Busch, BS '97, MED '00, assistant dean for student accessibility at OHIO

► Read more about the history of ADA at OHIO at [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras).



The Dancing Wheels Company & School, which unites dancers with and without disabilities, performs at the Athens Campus in October. Based in Cleveland, Ohio, Dancing Wheels was founded in 1980 by Mary Verdi-Fletcher, who was born with spina bifida and became the first professional wheelchair dancer in America. The school opened in 1990. PHOTO BY EMILY MATTHEWS, BSVC '18

Calendar of events for alumni and friends of ohio university | [ohioalumni.org/calendar](http://ohioalumni.org/calendar)

Wherever you live, Ohio University wants to keep in touch with you. Alumni chapters exist around the globe to help you meet and reconnect with fellow Bobcats. Of course, you'll occasionally want to find a reason to return to campus—fall is the perfect time to visit! For a full schedule of chapter, society, and on-campus events, including reunions, visit [ohio.edu/alumni](http://ohio.edu/alumni). —Kaitlyn Pacheco, BSJ '17, and Hailee Tavoian, coordinator, Advancement Communication and Marketing



## BOBCATTHON

OHIO students will dance until they drop on **FEB. 13** at the second annual BobcatThon, a 12-hour dance marathon co-sponsored by OUAA and the Student Alumni Board. Proceeds benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Ohio.

[bobcatathon.com](http://bobcatathon.com)



The Ebony Bobcat Network is scheduling its annual theater fundraising event for early February. A pre-show reception and off-Broadway play are on the docket. Proceeds support OHIO's Urban Scholars Program.

[ohio.edu/alumni](http://ohio.edu/alumni)



## DC NETWORKING WEEK

Inspired by the Charlotte Networking Week, DC Networking Week will bring OHIO students to the U.S. capital to connect with regional alumni, attend career panels, take business tours, and do much more. Activities occur **MARCH 24-26**.

[ohio.edu/alumni](http://ohio.edu/alumni)



Renew wedding vows with your Bobcat sweetheart at "OH, I DO," admire classic cars at the Cruise-In at the Convo, and eat up BBQ on the College Green.

[ohio.edu/alumni/onthegreen](http://ohio.edu/alumni/onthegreen)



Your Ohio University Alumni Association celebrates professional and personal achievements of alumni and friends at Homecoming every year. Did you know we've singled out such milestones for 75 years? Further the long legacy by nominating someone!

### We've recognized Bobcats like

**Les Carney, BSCO '59** • Medal of Merit 1962

OHIO's first Olympian & first track All-American

Who's next? Honor a fellow Bobcat's career or service to Ohio University by recommending her for a Medal of Merit or the Distinguished Service Award.

Recognize a grad of the last decade by proposing him for the Charles J. and Claire O. Ping Recent Graduate Award.

And many people are Bobcats through and through without being alumni. Submit one for the Honorary Alumni Award.

Make your nomination today!

**OHIO UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

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## PRESIDENTIAL MILESTONES

Ohio Today asked Roderick J. McDavis, OHIO's current and 20<sup>th</sup> president, and Vernon R. Alden, OHIO's 15<sup>th</sup> president, to reflect on their presidential milestones when they attended the Manasseh Cutler's Lobster Fest.

Watch the video at  
[ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras).

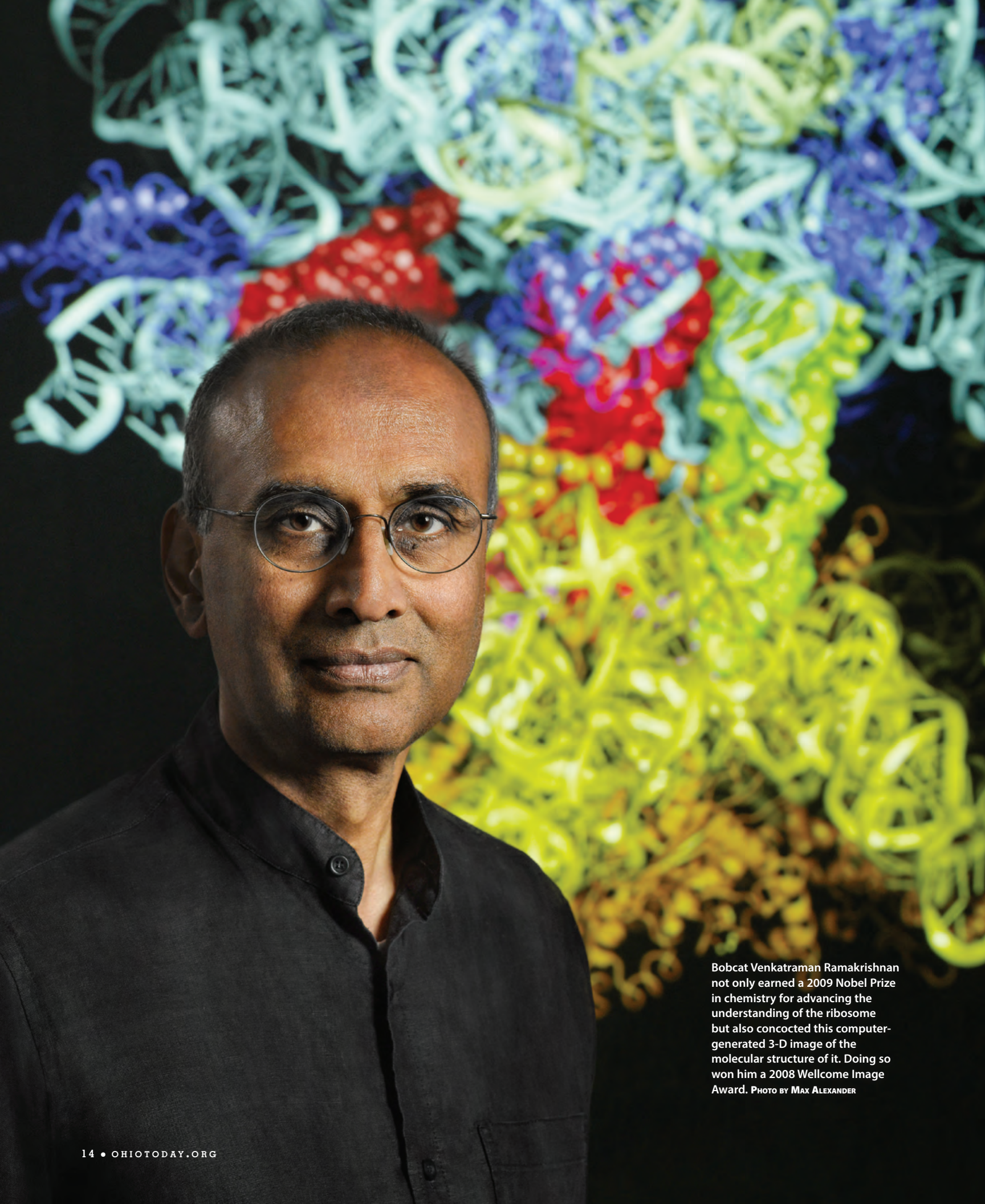


### WHAT A TREAT! WHAT A TRICK!

"Dreams that wander in the daylight." That's how a Kickstarter video describes Honey for the Heart, a public art project that began in 2012 and instantly became a milestone for Bobcats and locals. It creates "outrageous spectacles of phantasmagoric proportion" through making and performing giant puppets from repurposed materials, according to its Facebook page. This year, artists from Puerto Rico, Israel, New York, Washington State, Minnesota, and Alaska joined OHIO students and community members in a workshop type of residency to craft the handmade eye-poppers for the annual Athens Halloween Block Party. Arts for OHIO and the University's Learning Communities sponsor the puppet parade. This photo depicts last year's extravaganza. PHOTO BY DAVID HOOKER, BSJ '92







Bobcat Venkatraman Ramakrishnan not only earned a 2009 Nobel Prize in chemistry for advancing the understanding of the ribosome but also concocted this computer-generated 3-D image of the molecular structure of it. Doing so won him a 2008 Wellcome Image Award. PHOTO BY MAX ALEXANDER





# LANDMARKS BIT BY BIT

**I**n 2009, molecular biologist Venkatraman Ramakrishnan reached a milestone singular in Ohio University history. He won a Nobel Prize—the first and only Bobcat so decorated. Ramakrishnan, PHD '76, earned the honor in chemistry, with Thomas Steitz and Ada Yonath, “for studies of the structure and function of the ribosome,” according to the Nobel citation.

A ribosome is composed of ribonucleic acid and protein and found in the cytoplasm of living cells. Proteins serve many purposes, Ramakrishnan explained via e-mail, “from giving organisms their form and structure to conducting complex reactions such as transporting oxygen in our blood; detecting light, touch, heat, and smell; and fighting off infections. Each protein is made by translating information encoded in a specific gene. The molecule that reads this genetic information to make protein is the ribosome, which consists of almost 1 million atoms. Think of the ribosome as a molecular machine.”



To fathom the ribosome necessitates seeing it: how atoms arrange and connect and how they operate as an entity. Ramakrishnan made an analogy to a car—“looking under the hood and chassis to figure out how it works.” He helped determine the atomic structure of the ribosome by analyzing data from x-rays hitting crystals of ribosomes. “This provided insights into how it recognized the genetic code and many other aspects of ribosome function,” Ramakrishnan continued. “We also discovered precisely how many antibiotics bind to bacterial ribosomes. These compounds bind to pockets in bacterial ribosomes and prevent them from working. Because these binding pockets are slightly different in human ribosomes, they are able to be specific for bacteria. There are many other ‘antibiotics’ not so useful because they bind equally to both our and bacterial ribosomes.”

He celebrated another, more personal binding milestone as a doctoral student on the Athens Campus. Ramakrishnan met Vera Kapka Rosenberry, BFA '74, a painting major who would become a prolific children's author/illustrator. They married in 1975 after an 11-month courtship and raised two children, Ramakrishnan's stepdaughter, Tanya Kapka, a family medicine doctor in Hillsboro, Oregon, and the couple's son, Raman Ramakrishnan, a cellist/academic in New York City.

Venki, as he goes by, answered e-mail questions about science, family, OHIO, accolades, and other topics from his office in Cambridge, England, at the storied Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, for which Ramakrishnan serves as deputy director. Edited excerpts follow. For the rest of the exchange, go online to [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras). —Editor Peter Szatmary

*What are you currently researching?*

How ribosomes from higher organisms work. Especially how they are regulated and how viruses can hijack them to make their own proteins.

Science now has much more powerful tools for studying ribosomes—there have been great advances in genetics and in biochemical tools including the ability to study single molecules. A major advance is that we can now obtain detailed structures of the ribosome by electron microscopy. Thus, the arduous job of crystallizing them and solving the structure by x-ray crystallography is no longer essential. So we can do far more detailed and sophisticated experiments.

*Share some of the impact of winning a Nobel Prize.*

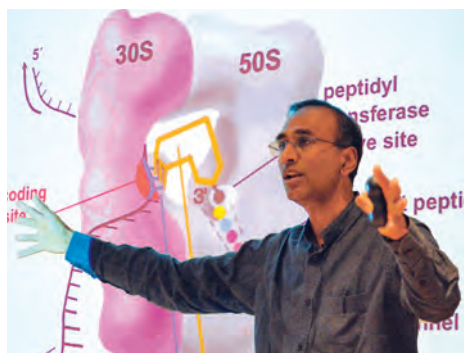
Often Nobel Prizes are awarded very late in one's career. In those cases, people simply enjoy the renewed attention and spend their time traveling around and getting wine and dined. In my case, the breakthroughs in the ribosome simply paved the way for understanding its mechanism in greater detail, and we have focused on that and been fairly productive. So I would not say that my daily life has changed a lot. I do get more invitations to speak than I used to, but many of these are not the kind I'd want to do and I just say no. I don't find it easier to publish my papers—a sign of integrity in science.

*OHIO played an interesting, if sidwinding, role in your eventual career. You enrolled at age 19 to pursue a doctorate in theoretical physics. Talk about your studies.*

I enjoyed my coursework. But I did not have any aptitude or passion for the research I was doing. Partly it is because I didn't have a clear idea of the ultimate goals and was simply doing a set of calculations. So that was not very satisfying.

I think part of the problem is that I was not surrounded by people who were excited about coming to grips with the big problems of the day or even aware of the breakthroughs and how they were made





**LEFT:** The Bobcat receives a Nobel Prize in chemistry from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden on Dec. 10, 2009, in Stockholm, Sweden. “I rented tails from a place that does this for Nobels,” Venki recalled. PHOTO AP PHOTO/SCANPIX/PONTUS LUNDAHL/POOL. **ABOVE:** He gives a talk “about how the ribosome reads the genetic code” from his lab on Sept. 22, 2010, Venki explained. PHOTO COURTESY OF MRC LABORATORY OF MOLECULAR BIOLOGY

until well after they were published. Many of my fellow students were just interested in getting a degree so they could get some sort of job. Most professors had graduated from top-notch schools, but unless one is an exceptionally self-motivated theorist, it is hard to do first-rate work with less than the best students, and it is hard to build up an institution when other established schools in the Northeast or California attract the best students. However, I have heard that things have improved a lot since my day.

*You lost interest in theoretical physics quickly and developed an enduring fascination with molecular biology. How come?*

I could see that making significant advances in theoretical physics would be very hard but major discoveries were being made in virtually every area of biology on a regular basis. It was an exciting time to move into biology and remains that way. I also knew that many great biologists like Francis Crick had started out in physics, so there were precedents.

*So you went back to school, to University of California, San Diego to study biology, and then did postdoctoral work at Yale in the*

*chemistry department, after having completed a B.Sc. in physics at University of Baroda in Vadodara, India, and a Ph.D. in physics at OHIO. And you assumed this additional education as a young married father! Talk about your motivation and, if applicable, your stress. My motivation was always to keep my options open for as long as possible to be able to do the kind of science I wanted. I suppose the most important thing is to marry a supportive spouse! I was very lucky to have married someone who was willing to go along with these somewhat risky career moves like going back to graduate school after a Ph.D., especially with young children in the mix. She also bore the brunt of the housework and childrearing when I was trying to develop a career, which would be unthinkable today.*

*At OHIO, you played on the chess team, went hiking, hopped freight trains, and read literature. OHIO helped form the Renaissance man you'd eventually become, huh? Or were you always wide-ranging? Perhaps you sought such diversions unconsciously because you were beginning to realize you preferred biology to physics?*

I always had diverse interests, but I think you're absolutely right that these distractions were a symptom of my dissatisfaction with my studies and my realization that I would probably need to start over. In hindsight, they helped me grow as a person and I don't regret them at all. But I do joke that if I had grad students like me, I'd fire them!

At OHIO, I learned about Western classical music for the first time. I also remember Richard Syracuse's concerts, sometimes as part of a piano trio with colleagues Leighton Conkling on cello and Howard Beebe on violin. This interest in classical, especially chamber, music has stayed with me. Interestingly, my son is a professional cellist.

*You owe OHIO a further debt of gratitude because you met your subsequent wife here. What do you recall about your time together at OHIO?*

Well, it was a turbulent time, because she had a young daughter and was going through a divorce when we met. In fact, we got married quite impulsively soon after her divorce, against the advice of some, including a professor of mine. My parents in India were not too happy, either, and didn't talk to me for two years. Luckily, we're still married and that young daughter is now a doctor in Oregon. But looking back, it was also a great time. Athens is a very beautiful town, highly conducive to romance.

*Your nuclear family is very successful. What did y'all discuss at meals?*

We talked—and argued—about all sorts of things from family gossip to movies, books, music, history, politics, world affairs, and, of course, some science. I think it was clear we had high expectations for the children, but otherwise they were pretty much free to follow their interests.

*You're president-elect of the Royal Society, a self-governing worldwide fellowship of leading scientists founded in 1660. What's on your to-do list?*

Almost anything I can think of is already being done. But here are some specific concerns of mine: One, stable funding, especially for basic science, with long-term commitment and cross-party support. Two, competitiveness in recruiting and retaining the best scientists (resources, salary, immigration and visa rules, etc.). Three, streamlining regulations to reduce the increasing bureaucratic burden scientists face. Four, the quality and level of science education, especially in high school. Five, engaging with the public about science so they can share the joy of understanding the natural world and understand decisions that affect them in an increasingly technological world. Six, promoting evidence-based policy (both in terms of laws and the level and allocation of resources) by government and other organizations. Seven, to ensure that the scientific enterprise is as inclusive as possible so that it makes the best use of talent.

*You concluded your Nobel lecture with a music video that blended hardcore science with rock tunes. You thought colleagues were playing a practical joke when you received the fateful phone call about winning the Nobel. Humor serves a crucial purpose, no?*

Humor is a universal human trait except perhaps in some parts of central Europe. It is also an antidote to pretentiousness and extremism. Writer Amos Oz said he had never seen a fanatic with a sense of humor or a person with a sense of humor who became a fanatic. I have always loved practical jokes, as have many of my friends, which is why I was so suspicious of the Nobel phone call.

*Your parents were Ph.D. scientists who ultimately worked together. Share a few details about their careers and their influence on you.*

My father started a department of biochemistry at University of Baroda almost straight out of a postdoc. In hindsight, I think this was a mistake because it mired him in administrative issues when he should have been free to concentrate completely on his research. Similarly, my mother obtained a Ph.D. in psychology but due to various circumstances was thrown into working with my father. She had the chance to work as a psychologist in the West but they were not able to find jobs together. I suppose their career shows how they made the best of a difficult set of circumstances.

Their influence on me was fairly indirect. They were too busy with their own lives during most of my childhood to bother much with me and most of the time had no idea what I was doing. But despite this benign neglect, it was clear they expected me to do well and encouraged me to read widely and take an interest in things. Not having constant parental supervision also gave me a sense of freedom and helped me to be independent.

*You grew up in India, attended graduate school and worked in several cities in the U.S., and now call England home. You're very much a citizen of the world. What sensibilities from which*



*countries inform you?*

I am a mixture of three different cultures and think of myself as an Anglo-American of Indian origins, perhaps one-third each. I like the warmth and hospitality of Indians (not to mention the great food and music), the can-do attitude and openness of Americans, and the general civility and concern for social welfare of the British.

*You suffered academic rejections as a lad by not getting into preferred universities. How did these rebuffs affect you?*

At the time it was probably disappointing, but I didn't dwell on it much since there was always the next thing to focus on.

*You also initially could not find an academic job upon finishing your postdoctoral work, making 50 applications to no avail. How did you feel? How did you cope?*

This was quite discouraging, but I always had a plan B and even a plan C. For example, one of my backup plans was to become a high school science or math teacher. If I had done that, I am sure I'd have been





The Bobcats stand by artwork in their home in Cambridge, England. Vera Kapka Rosenberry, BFA '74, a painting major at OHIO and now a children's author/illustrator, made the self-portrait over her right shoulder. The other piece "she inherited from her dad and is an 1848 painting by German artist Christian Kohler," Venki wrote. PHOTO BY BRENDAN KELLY

just fine, and it is just as important a job as any scientist's. Another was to become a computer software engineer. If I'd done that in the late 1970s, I might be a very rich man today.

*Setbacks notwithstanding, you've received much encouragement throughout your career. For instance, you received a Guggenheim Fellowship in 1991-92. And your numerous other commendations include being knighted by the British government in 2011. What role does such validation play?*

It is nice to get recognition but we should always keep in mind that such recognition is not the goal. And it is often a matter of luck whether it happens or not.

*India proclaimed you a national hero upon your Nobel, and you received the Padma Vibhushan, India's second-highest civilian award, in 2010. How do you internalize such an honor—and such a responsibility?*

I don't think much about it. It is nice to get recognition, but you have to remember that it is merely a byproduct of the actual work.

I also don't feel that it comes with any special responsibility. My responsibility remains the same—to my work, family and friends, colleagues, institutions, etc. If people take me too seriously because of these awards, that's their problem. Certainly my family and friends don't treat me any differently!

*You keep good company in your job at the Laboratory of Molecular Biology: 10 Nobel Prizes among 14 staffers since 1958 and 11 Nobel Prizes for alumni since 1989.*

*Describe the environment: pressure, curiosity, risk-taking, collegiality, or something else?*

It is an extremely collegial place where people take the time to help and advise each other. It is also a place with no real hierarchy—a first-year student has exactly the same right to use any equipment as the lab director. There is no separate "faculty club." We all eat together at the same cafeteria. Finally, it is a place where you're expected to work on things that genuinely advance understanding rather than just publish a stream of papers. So if there is pressure, it is subtle and comes from a sense of having to live up to the history of the place.

*Who are your role models?*

I admire the irreverence, curiosity, and intellect of theoretical physicist Richard Feynman. The low-key attitude and persistence of biochemist Fred Sanger. Of scientists from India, astrophysicist Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar, for his rigor, scholarship, and lifelong devotion to doing science. And the larger-than-life chemist Linus Pauling. He also shows that one should not take role models too seriously: Even though he was brilliant and made wide-ranging contributions from many areas of science to peace, he was probably completely wrong in his views on vitamin C and cancer, and definitely wrong about quasicrystals. See the 2011 Nobel Prize in chemistry to materials scientist Dan Shechtman. [Ramakrishnan's other role models also won Nobels.]



Imagine 500 million. Of anything. It's hard: 181 million more than the 319 million people in the U.S.; 99.5 billion less than the 100 billion stars in the Milky Way. The 377,775 bricks in OHIO's College Green pathways? Infinitesimal! The University's *The Promise Lives Campaign* raised \$500 million over eight years to support students, faculty, programs, outreach, and facilities, surpassing its goal by \$50 million when the books closed in June.



Phil Wellington

Gerri Botte

Sarah Erickson

Lauren Borovicka

Amy Titler

Brian Vadakin

► For more profiles, go online to [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras).



# MAKING GOOD—*actually, great*—ON A PROMISE



Tens of thousands of donors made a difference for Ohio University in its milestone *The Promise Lives Campaign*. The record-breaking initiative—exceeding a \$450 million goal by \$50 million-plus—not only catapulted past one-half billion dollars during the eight-year endeavor but also

symbolized the best of Bobcats and friends.

For instance, generosity knew no age limits. Dennis Morris, BSED '31, of Marietta, made his last gift in February 2013, before dying two months later at age 106, after 34 years of consecutive giving. Meanwhile, Parker Poliakoff, MBA '15, made his first gift in June—and he's only 23.

The sheer amount of some philanthropy dazzled. Violet L. Patton, BSED '38; Osteopathic Heritage Foundations; Scripps Howard Foundation; and Fritz J. Russ, BSEE '42, and his wife, Dolores H. Russ, bestowed eight- and nine-figure gifts.

Goodwill came from close by and close to the heart. Almost 50,000 donors call the state of Ohio home, including upward of 13,000 from the southeast, in the backyard of the Athens Campus. Meanwhile, Christopher Sisson, BBA '00, gave from the farthest away—Campbelltown, South Australia.

To help visualize \$500,127,012 committed by 81,215 donors, meet six individuals bettered by this historic generosity.

## *Serving the world*

Right now, **Brian Vadakin** is in Costa Rica on a Fulbright. Donors helped him get there.

The 2015 Honors Tutorial College graduate studies rural community tourism. Vadakin, who majored in Spanish and minored in economics, explains it's "similar to ecotourism and cultural/heritage tourism" but "communities must come together and agree to implement the project." And, "revenue goes back to the community to aid with key infrastructure."

This isn't Vadakin's first international venture. While an undergraduate, he traveled to Costa Rica to volunteer on an agricultural cooperative. Vadakin also studied abroad in Mérida, Mexico, where he volunteered with OHIO counterparts to teach

ballet at a weekday home for girls.

Service experiences form "the fondest memories I have from my trips," says Vadakin. "When you make the sincere effort to have a cultural exchange, the potential for an increase in mutual understanding is pretty amazing."

He adds, "It really is a great feeling to know that I have the academic and financial support of my university while I go out and do these things that I believe are important."

To Vadakin, "In the end, the money is just money, but the service and the research it helped me do, the experiences it helped me have—those represent knowledge and memories that will remain with me."

## *Teaching kids to live healthily*

Forty percent of Athens County third graders are obese or overweight.

"You hear that and you get mad and want to do something about it," says **Lauren Borovicka**. "Not just for now, but for their lifetimes. For those kids 25-30 years from now."

She confronts the problem as program manager for COMCorps, an AmeriCorps offering in the Heritage College's Community Health Programs. COMCorps members serve 11 months, packed with 1,700 hours in second-grade classrooms.

"We go in and have kids engage with food," Borovicka says. "We teach them cooking and nutrition, eating variety, eating color, and expose them to different foods like eggplant and quinoa." The children then apply the appetizing lessons—"to help in the kitchen to make healthy meals at home."

Borovicka knows that behavior change isn't easy. And not just for second graders. "Everyone who comes through COMCorps is changed or reaffirmed in some way," she says.

Since its 2000 launch, COMCorps has grown from eight members to 23. This year, private support saw the program expand beyond Athens County into Washington County.

Donors give COMCorps its get up and go. "These resources provide us with more sustainability and with more funds to do what we know needs done," says Borovicka. "You can spend your time

scrounging for pieces and parts or you can have the funding to go and do. The private support gives us the resources to go and do.”

### Believing in herself, her school

In August, the School of Visual Communication moved from Siegfred Hall to Schoonover Center, the Scripps College of Communication’s new home. Thanks to donors, what was Baker Center now includes classrooms, labs, studios, and collaborative spaces.

Student **Sarah Erickson** raves about the upgrades.

They “show me that the school and staff believe in me and my program,” says the senior from Vienna, Virginia. The transformations “give me access to even more tools and facilities to push myself even more and create beautiful pieces that I can be proud of ... that my OHIO family can be proud of.”

Further belief in Erickson comes from receiving the first 73 West State Scholarship, established by Bill Brand, BSC ’87, to honor fellow OHIO grads who shared that address.

“This scholarship has meant so much to me and my family,” says Erickson. “It’s given me confidence that my school believes in me enough to help me stay here.”

A former University tour guide, Erickson made sure prospective students knew “that OHIO is a place that cares.” The people “encourage and inspire me every day to be the best student that I can be. ... Whether it be publishing pieces ... [or] applying for internships ... I always know my Bobcats have my back.”

### Leading the way in sustainability

**Gerri Botte**’s zeal is obvious as she explains how her work “contributes to the solution of grand challenges of humanity related to water and energy.”

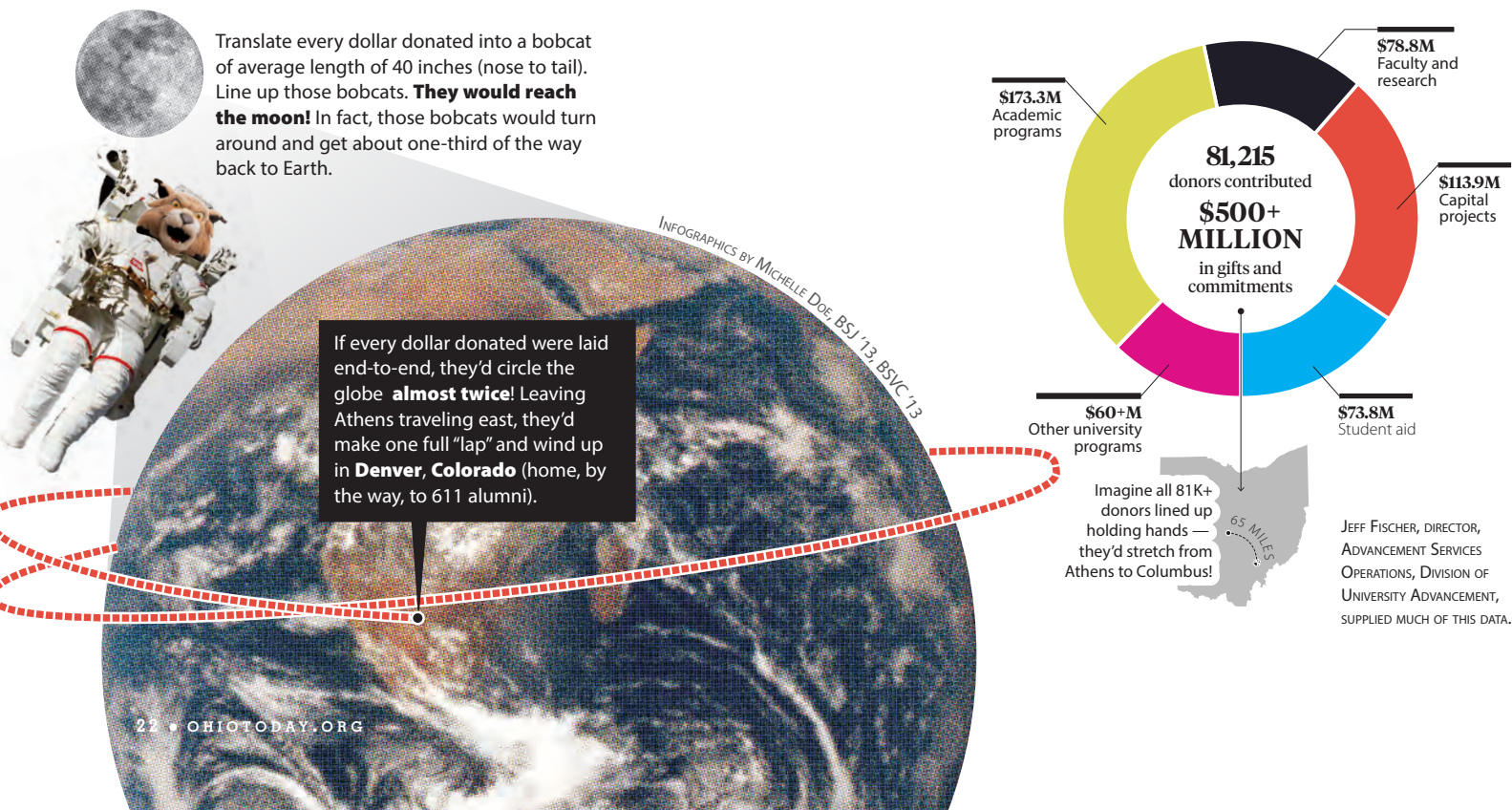
Her credentials match her exuberance. Recently named Distinguished Professor—the University’s highest faculty honor—she’s the Russ Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering in the Russ College of Engineering and Technology. She also directs the college’s Center for Electrochemical Engineering.

Botte developed the electrochemical engineering “pee-to-power” process: creating hydrogen from human and animal wastewater for use in fuel cells. The only “byproduct”? Clean water.

“Sustainability is the goal,” says the world-renowned expert, who examines it from multiple angles: environment, resources, and manufacturing.

The donor-funded Russ Professor title brings Botte more than prestige. The designation also underwrites research, travel, and scholarly activity. She earmarked some of the money for undergraduate efforts. “It makes me happy,” she proclaims, to “enable opportunities for the next generation of great engineers who are eager to create for good.”

A woman in a male-dominated field, Botte hopes to inspire future women engineers and participates in international, national, and state recruitment programs accordingly. The large-scale push thrills her. “I am optimistic about the future!”





### Thriving from encouragement

A group of Ross County women formed a Giving Circle to support the Ohio University Chillicothe Campus in 2010 to help students like **Amy Titler**.

A mother of four from Orient, Ohio, Titler is a middle childhood education major who worked as a teacher's aide at Scioto Elementary School in Commercial Point. The Giving Circle awarded her a scholarship last year.

"As a mother, I had always wanted to finish my teaching degree. The decision to do so was fully supported by my husband, but has put a financial burden on our household. Words can't describe how helpful it is to have that financial support," says Titler.

She hopes to emulate favorite teachers as a way to give back. "As a quiet and shy student, I tried very hard not to be noticed. They noticed anyway," Titler reflects. "They saw my brightness and showed it to me. I hope to do that for my future students."

When choosing a college, she decided to make the hour commute each way "because real people answer the phone!" she says. "Chillicothe is like my second hometown. I fully expect to finally complete my goal of a teaching degree here."

### Going to the mat

Senior mechanical engineering major **Phil Wellington** came to Athens from Euclid, Ohio, as a preferred walk-on for Bobcat wrestling. He worked hard to earn a scholarship and stand out on the mat.

One of six OHIO wrestlers to advance to the NCAA Championships in 2015, Wellington won the team's "Hardest Worker" award. And he cherishes beating the reigning national champion in 2014.

"Representing my family and my community makes me really proud," he says. "Doing well in a respectable major while giving my all every time I step on the mat is a really rewarding feeling."

Managing academics and athletics requires a balancing act.

"I hate missing a practice because of class. But I'm a student athlete and, ultimately, I'm here to excel in the classroom and get a degree," he says. "The workload can be tough, so staying up all night cutting weight, while studying for a test knowing that I have to be up at 6 a.m. for a workout, is really physically and mentally taxing."

But Wellington doesn't go it alone. He benefits from gifts made to the Bobcat Club and the Perry and Sandy Sook Academic Center. "My parents were not in the position where they could pay for college tuition," Wellington explains, "so I am very blessed to be able to have the opportunity to further my skills and knowledge at this great university."

OHIO holds countless stories like these. Countless more will follow. This is what half-a-billion looks like: people transformed by a promise. As the Alumni Gateway calls, "So enter that daily thou mayest grow in knowledge, wisdom and love." —Jennifer Shutt Bowie, BSJ '94, MSC '99, executive director, Advancement Communication & Marketing



**JUDITH ANDREE**  
BSHE '65  
Juneau, Alaska  
Learning Communities

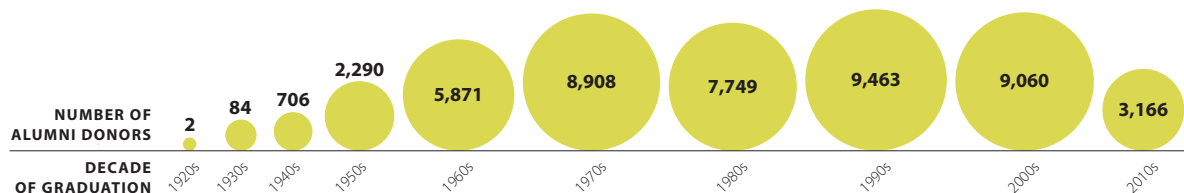


**HOWARD CHAPMAN**  
BBA '68  
Pepper Pike, Ohio  
Emergency Scholarship Fund



**JOHN & MARCIA BAUGHMAN**  
BSed '67 & BSed '65, respectively  
Lancaster, Ohio  
Lancaster Challenge Scholarship

► Who are the other Bobcats in the centerpiece image? The first person to fill in everyone's name correctly wins a fabulous overnight getaway for two in Athens from *Ohio Today*. Go online to [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras) for details about the free trip and for a blank grid. Entries accepted only via e-mail at [ohiotoday@ohio.edu](mailto:ohiotoday@ohio.edu). Hurry! The answer key will be posted online on Jan. 15, 2016.



461 donors attended OHIO but were non-degree.  
**TOTAL: 47,760**

# Forty-five years of care

**O**n June 21, 1970, Ohio University graduated its first class of nurses, 29 women who completed an associate-degree registered nursing program at the Zanesville Campus.

“We were like the pioneers,” said Cindy (Hiener) Farley, who grew up in Zanesville and enrolled after high school. Today, she is a vice president (of sales and marketing) at Genesis HealthCare, which operates more than 500 skilled nursing centers and assisted/senior living communities in 34 states.

From that modest beginning, OHIO’s School of Nursing has grown to include an RN to BSN program, a BSN and a MSN on the Athens Campus, and associate and BSN nursing degrees at Zanesville, Chillicothe, and Southern regional campuses. Currently, about 1,600 nursing students are in on-campus programs and another 5,900 are in the online

RN to BSN program (considered part of the Athens nursing program).

“The nursing programs’ incredible growth, especially in the online RN to BSN, is due to quality academic instruction, convenience, and affordability,” said School of Nursing Director and Professor, Associate Executive Dean for Regional Higher Education Nursing Deborah Henderson.

The nursing pioneers were the only Bobcats to go through graduation in spring 1970. The shootings at Kent State seven weeks earlier prompted OHIO to close the Athens Campus and cancel commencement.

“It was unheard of. Nobody ever graduated unless they went to Athens,” recalled another alumna, Melody Kirkwood.

“I had always wanted to be a nurse,” said Jeanene (Versaw) Prestanski, who recently retired after 45 years of bedside nursing.

From Belpre, Ohio, she rented a room in town and caught rides to campus. Tuition was \$200 a quarter when she started in 1968.

“I had to work every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday on the night shift to get the money to pay for it,” said Kirkwood, who lives in Roseville, Ohio, and was a surgical nurse until retiring. After graduation, she and 18 others in the class landed jobs at Bethesda (now Genesis) Hospital in Zanesville.

“There was one really big room for the nursing program with a couple beds and dummies to learn on,” Prestanski recalled. Once or twice a week, nursing students went to Bethesda Hospital for clinical experience with patients. After graduation, she worked first in Athens, then as an orthopedics nurse in several states.

At the program’s 40<sup>th</sup> reunion in 2010, Kirkwood, Prestanski, and fellow alums applauded the advancements in teaching equipment, especially high-fidelity patient simulators—mannequins that can be programmed with symptoms.

“They’re similar to real-life situations where students can practice their decision-making,” said Pam Sealover, associate director of nursing at Zanesville. “We do a lot more practice in a simulated learning environment to prepare (students).”

Technology has changed many aspects of nursing. Hospital charts are computerized; IV drugs are administered with pumps, which are essentially small computers. Even state tests graduates take to become licensed are done on computer.

The first students to complete OHIO’s BSN at Zanesville will graduate next May, said Sealover. Forty-five years later, OHIO nursing students are still pioneers. —*Martha Allan is a veteran journalist who has worked at newspapers in Indiana, Illinois, and Pennsylvania.*







**LEFT:** Assistant Nursing Professor Susan Dowell, BSN '92, MSN '13, demonstrates the proper procedure for cleaning a tracheotomy to third-year nursing students at the Zanesville Campus.

PHOTO BY RYAN YOUNG, BSVC '13 **ABOVE:** Zanesville nursing student Thea Tharp draws blood from a simulated arm during clinical lab practice in October. PHOTO BY RYAN YOUNG, BSVC '13 **RIGHT:** Linda Barker (center), AAS '84, BSN '94, a registered nurse with the Zanesville-Muskingum County Health Department, talks with Zanesville nursing students Sarah Keeton (left) and Jessica Sterling at the county health department's free flu shot clinic held at the Muskingum County Fairgrounds in early October. PHOTO BY CHRISTINE SHAW, BTAS '10, MA '15



# Forty years on, medical college still an innovator

In fall 1976, Stephanie Knapp stepped out as a pioneer—one of the first 24 students at a new medical college. The college, in turn, was to step up as a pioneer—in physician training.

Knapp, now a pediatrician and allergist in the Philadelphia area, recalled that construction remained in full swing upon her arrival at Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

“In many of our classes, we would hear hammering, sawing,” Knapp said. “We did not have that many completed rooms, but there were only 24 of us, so we managed.”

Manage they did in a layout crafted from a couple of unused dormitories. Knapp has been in practice for 35 years, and OHIO’s medical school has established itself as a leader statewide and nationally in innovative training of sorely needed primary care physicians.

Forty years after the Ohio Legislature created the college in 1975, another group of medical students—51 this time—started classes in another brand-new school. This one, housed at Cleveland Clinic South Pointe Hospital in Warrensville Heights, Ohio, marks the latest expansion for the-now Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine. It launched a campus in Dublin, Ohio, a year before with 50 students.

## Then & now

From a humble birth amid racket and sawdust, Heritage College has matured to three campuses with a cumulative incoming class 10 times its initial size. Contrasts abound between opening day in Athens, 1976, and Cleveland, 2015. Renovation of South Pointe, for one, finished ahead of schedule, with the site gleaming like a showroom. Whereas the Athens hub commenced with relative modest equipage—a dorm kitchen morphing into an anatomy lab—the Cleveland iteration features custom-built classroom teleconferencing/Internet stations to connect students and faculty with peers in Athens and Dublin and to facilitate collaborative learning in small teams.

“This campus is absolutely unbelievable,” enthused Heritage College, Cleveland student Alex Morrison-Nozik. “It’s gorgeous. It’s an absolutely amazing environment for learning.”

Through 40 years of growth and change, the college continues to hew to its mission: training primary care physicians to serve Ohio, especially medically underserved locales. And in 2015, Heritage College’s osteopathic philosophy—emphasizing holistic primary care, physician empathy, and teamwork among care providers—looks increasingly like just what the doctor ordered to keep Americans healthier at lower cost. The timing appears ideal for Heritage College to lead medical educators nationally toward the kind of physician training it’s advocated from the onset.





At an August celebration of the new campus, Heritage College, Cleveland Dean Isaac J. Kirstein, D.O., suggested that in searching for a better way to train doctors, “what everyone is racing toward is osteopathic medicine. They’re trying to get to where we are, as fast as they can.” As a July 29, 2014, *New York Times* story indicated, “In 1980, there were just 14 (osteopathic medical) schools across the country and 4,940 students. Now there are 30 schools ... offering instruction at 40 different locations to more than 23,000 students.” And according to the American Osteopathic Association, one in four students entering medical school today attends a college of osteopathic medicine.

Kirstein and Executive Dean Kenneth H. Johnson, D.O., sit on the Blue Ribbon Commission for the Advancement of Osteopathic Medical Education, which published a seminal report in 2013; it called for, in part, a makeover of physician training to give students more clinical experience earlier and a redoubling of effort on primary care to address pressing needs in the healthcare system. Heritage College officials view both new campuses as important proving grounds.

“Health care is changing dramatically,” noted Johnson in an interview. “Leaders in the field such as Cleveland Clinic know the best model for the future is a team of health care professionals, working together to keep patients healthy, not just treat them once they get sick. And as a college, we’re asking: How can we train our students to become physician-leaders in this changing health care environment?”

## The future & back

Another constant in the college’s 40-year voyage is its focus on attracting students from Ohio who want to stay in the state and practice primary care. The new campuses further reinforce this imperative by recruiting heavily in the home area. They also partner with OhioHealth in central Ohio, Cleveland Clinic in northeast Ohio, and other health care providers to find students rotation slots in those regions to increase the likelihood that graduates will practice there.

Judging by the first Cleveland class, students are on board. “I’m from Cleveland, and I’ve lived here my whole life,” said Dana Nunez. “This is definitely my home, and I plan to stay here.”

Classmate Ariel Moore echoed this. “I was born in Cleveland,” she said. “So this kind of starts my journey to give back to my community.”

Forty years after Heritage College’s birth, early students marvel at how far it’s come. But the 1976 class shares traits with the 2015 counterparts. Hinda Abramoff, D.O., an anesthesiologist at Cleveland Clinic, could be speaking for the 51 students who began at the Heritage College, Cleveland in July as she remembered her momentous beginnings. “We all wanted to be good doctors,” Abramoff said. “I did have a feeling it was going to turn out to be a good school.” —*Jim Phillips, BSJ ’88, communications specialist, Heritage College*



**PAGE 26, LEFT:** “A student at OHIO’s School of Osteopathic Medicine tries to make a youngster feel comfortable before examination,” explains the caption from the 1978 *Spectrum Green* yearbook. **PAGE 26, RIGHT:** Students at the Heritage College, Cleveland participate in several orientation sessions the first week, including an introduction to gross anatomy. PHOTO BY JOEL PRINCE, BSV ‘12 **LEFT:** OHIO cheerleaders, and Warrensville Heights Mayor Bradley Sellers, enliven the Cleveland grand opening. PHOTO BY JOHN SATTLER, BFA ’87 **ABOVE:** Rehab of empty dorms into a medical school remained ongoing when students arrived in 1976. PHOTO COURTESY OF HERITAGE COLLEGE





# 100 YEARS



► For more photos, history, and context, go online to [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras).



# Hooray for Hollywood? Applause for Athens!

**T**he Athena Cinema, long a favorite for Bobcats to see a first-run release, catch a classic, snuggle with a sweetie, or even learn about science, turned 100 in June.

Fans lined up around the block on a perfect spring evening to toast the Court Street landmark with champagne and cake and view silent-film star Mary Pickford in “Cinderella,” the first attraction on opening day, June 3, 1915.

“That revival really showed the staff—and Athena lovers—how much this theater is attached to people,” said film buff Kelee Riesbeck, BSJ ’91, and assistant director of Advancement Communication & Marketing at OHIO.

Barri Abrams Simpson, BSED ’88, and her future husband, Matt, BBA ’87, had their first date at the Athena on Feb. 23, 1984, she wrote in a post on Ohio University Alumni Association’s Facebook page.

“We ended up leaving early because people were mad we were talking and laughing too much” at *Weekend Pass*, Simpson recalled. “Three kids, four houses in three states later,” they celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in September 2014.

OHIO purchased the Athena in 2001 and transformed it from a mostly mainstream movie house to largely an art house for independent films. Programming is at once creative and interactive. For example, the grant-supported Science on Screen series pairs features with scientific experts who present the factual basis for topics raised in the films.

The Athena’s year-long celebration includes a monthly retrospective of iconic flicks such as Charlie Chaplin’s *City Lights* (1931), Joseph L. Mankiewicz’s *All About Eve* (1950), Jean-Luc Godard’s *Breathless* (1960), Francis Ford Coppola’s *The Conversation* (1974), and Spike Lee’s *Do The Right Thing* (1989).

The art-deco building has undergone several changes of name and ownership over the eras. It debuted as the Majestic.

Other iterations: Shine’s Athena and, finally, the Athena Cinema. Competition? Court Street boasted four movie houses as recently as the 1950s, said Tom O’Grady, executive director of the Athens County Historical Society. Also add in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century venues in outlying locations, a drive-in theater or two in the area, and Athens Campus films presented at low cost by the Men’s Independent Association and, later, Movies-In-Auditorium.

By privileging indie, foreign, and documentary films, the Athena keeps exclusive company. Only 400 or so such theaters exist in the U.S., estimated Barbara Twist, managing director of the Art House Convergence, a national organization of independent theaters.

Indeed, an annual highlight is the Athens International Film & Video Festival, which has showcased independent films for 42 years. Notable directors to appear: Steve Buscemi, with *Lonesome Jim*, 2005; Su Friedrich, most recently with *Gut Renovation*, 2013; and Howard Hawks, 1976, and Michael Powell, 1986, during career retrospectives.

The Athena also is used as classrooms and a screening room for works by OHIO film students.

“I remember going to the Athena many times, but I never imagined I would be able to get up on a silver screen,” wrote actress Piper Perabo, BFA ’98, via e-mail. “OHIO set me on the path,” continued Perabo, whose films include *Coyote Ugly* (2000), *Cheaper by the Dozen* (2003), and *Looper* (2012). She also starred on the USA Network spy show “Covert Affairs” (2010-14).

“We feel lucky to celebrate this centennial year, this significant milestone, that very few theaters in the nation can claim,” said Alexandra Kamody, BA ’09, Athena’s operations director. “We are working hard to preserve the history and get ready for the next 100 years.”

“I like to call the Athena the jewel of Court Street,” observed Riesbeck. —Martha Allan



# No debate about it

The winning legacy of OHIO's "Speaking Bobcats"

## A-e-i-OU!

Ohio University's Speech and Debate Team performs this simple chant before competitions. But the cheer serves as more

than vocal warmup. The school spirit also evokes well-earned pride, for the decorated troop counts not only famous members such as Arsenio Hall and Nancy Cartwright from the entertainment world, but also 62 national titles (16 team and 46 individual) and 108 state championships in the last decade alone.

The numbers amaze, indicates Marty Birkholt, former president of the National Parliamentary Debate Association and current co-editor of its journal. "When [a team] is very competitive, it can start to look like there are so many things on the list that it must be easy," says Birkholt. "However, there aren't a lot of squads in the country that can boast a similar set of accomplishments, especially consistently over that period of time."

Much of that acclaim links to program director Dan West, celebrating his 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the helm this year. West believes success arises from what he calls a "culture of practice." The 14-person team rehearses six hours per week. They also maximize what West terms "wasted time"—running through a speech on the way to class, for instance, or conferring on a five-hour bus ride to a tournament. Weekend travel and individual coaching also come with the lauded territory.

There's plenty to gear up for. Competition categories range from "Prepared Events" to "Interpretation" to "Limited Prep" and more. "The best way to think of it is like track and field, with varying events like the 100-yard dash and the two-mile [run]; our team members take the events they are best at and compete," analogizes West. "If someone just wants to learn how to give a speech, the University offers plenty of classes, but this team is where you go to perfect the craft of public presentations."

## Talk the talk

Alumnus Justin Zabor, BSC '00, competed all four years on what was once called Forensics—which, West elucidates, in Latin



“literally means ‘having to do with the legal aspects of,’ so forensics speaking used to be speaking in the courts.” The intense training Zabor underwent comes in handy as a funeral director at his family business in Parma, Ohio. “I’m constantly meeting with families and using my public speaking skills,” says Zabor. “I also continue pure speech activities, having started my own professional speaking business within the funeral industry. Forensics really opened up the doors for those opportunities.”

Although Zabor graduated 15 years ago, he retains vivid memories. Zabor cites giving voice for jam-packed INCO 101 classes (interpersonal communication) in Morton Hall, for instance. And he enjoyed helping OHIO host the National Forensic Association (NFA) national tournament his senior year. “Our campus was coming alive with spring, and trees and flowers were in bloom,” he recalls. “Schools and competitors from all over the country were saying what we always knew: how beautiful and friendly the campus was.”

That year—2000—marked the first time OHIO welcomed national speech and debate tournaments of late. The University also assumed home court in 2010 and 2012. Last spring, West upped the ante by

hosting both the NFA and Pi Kappa Delta national tournaments just weeks apart. Each tournament attracts around 80 to 90 college teams, and the economic boon for Athens totaled about \$4 million, according to the Athens County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

### Talking points

West also champions a slew of new categories designed to encourage interest from nontraditional students. Think TED talks, slam poetry, standup comedy, competitive job interviewing, PowerPoint sales presentations, radio broadcasting, and audition monologues. “We’ve laid the groundwork and these events are just starting to get momentum,” he says. “It’s very regional right now—there are a bunch of schools in Ohio, West Virginia, and Indiana doing it.”

As junior strategic communication major Kathryn Safreed sees it, West modernizes and energizes venerable speech and debate. “The new events are so much fun to compete in; they break the mold and are more applicable to the real world,” says Safreed, on the crew all three years. “When [prospective team members] hear the term ‘extemporaneous speaking,’ they get scared, but when they hear ‘slam poetry,’ they think,

‘I can do that.’ It gets more people involved.”

Exactly West’s objective. He considers invigoration vital. “Speech and debate has always been based on the traditional four-year college model, but we need ways to address the changing nature of higher education,” says West. “Kids on our regional campuses aren’t always able to commit to six hours of rehearsal every week and three weekends of travel every month; they find it more useful to work on skills in a less rigid format. The old model is good, but we’re missing an opportunity to reach more students if we don’t expand into something new.”

### Talking up

The landscape changes but the discipline remains terra firma. West advocates an almost military-like approach at competition, from crack-of-dawn practice rituals to donning crisp suits before taking the floor. He remembers a fall Illinois State University tournament when the team took over the parking lot, each member standing in a different space to drill individual speeches “without missing a beat.” Passersby likely overhear all sorts of vocal exercises: tongue twisters, cheers, and songs (such as “Do-Re-Mi” from *The Sound of Music*).

The lead-up to competition also mandates rigor. Along with the six hours of team practice weekly, members spend at least 10 hours researching, writing, and practicing each presentation. “Since students can compete in multiple events, they are often even more involved as they get more experience, and that practice time can get up to 20-25 hours a week—much like a varsity athlete or music major,” says West.

The hard work pays off—in college and beyond—because West also stresses “impression management.” Along with



**PAGE 30:** Kathryn Safreed, now a junior strategic communication major, receives coaching from Dan West in informative speaking techniques in 2014. PHOTO BY YI-KE PENG, MA '16 **LEFT:** More than 900 students from 79 colleges and universities competed at the National Forensic Association National Tournament in April. OHIO came in third in its sweepstakes division. PHOTO BY SABRINA SCHAEFFER, MA '16



articulation and specialized speech skills, contestants perfect the art of nonverbal messaging—from proper dress to confident body language to handling both triumph and defeat with grace.

“It’s not just communication skills in the event you’re performing in, but how you communicate everything about you,” says West, whose 25-plus years of teaching speech communication and forensics include a decade at Rice University, where he founded the department. “Being a successful competitor means being almost hyper-aware of the different messages you are sending all of the time. And in the real world, that’s what sets you apart from others.”

### Talk away

West keeps the long flame of Forensics burning at OHIO. The first on-campus debate occurred in 1811. Throughout the 1800s, three years of public speaking classes were required of every student. Competitively, OHIO gained its footing in the 1950s and 60s as one of “the biggest speech and debate teams in the country,” explains West. In 1971, the University became one of the founding schools of the NFA and won the first two national tournaments held by the organization. To this day, the “Speaking Bobcats,” as they’re nicknamed, are the only team besides Eastern Michigan University to have attended every single NFA national tournament.

“It’s a testament to [West’s] experience that he’s been able to carry on the winning tradition so seamlessly, especially in light of the fact that OHIO has been a successful program since way back,” says Zabor.

The accomplishments of the team’s alumni also speak volumes about the quality of the training. Along with boldface names like Hall and Cartwright, other notables include Ed Passarelli, AB ’73, deputy chief at the Environmental and Natural Resources Division in the U.S. Department of Justice; Renita Jablonski, a senior editor for National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered”; and Fortune 500 meeting and event planner John Casese, BSC ’76, MA ’79 (who endowed the Director of Forensics position that West holds



Dan West teaches the Fundamentals of Human Communication to 850 OHIO students each year. In addition to leading the Speaking Bobcats, he also regularly judges speech and debate tournaments.

PHOTO BY BEN SIEGEL, BSVC '02

in the Scripps College of Communication).

West also puts his money where his mouth is. To ensure the future of the program, he set in motion the Ohio University 3rd Century Speech & Debate Scholarship. West and his wife, Vicki Seefeldt West, senior assistant director for international recruitment in undergraduate admissions at OHIO, made the first investment of \$10,000. So far, more than \$100,000 has been collected toward the ultimate goal of \$500,000 in endowed money over five years.

“I think it’s really an ideal match that you’ve got a person who wants a very successful student-focused program and an institution with a strong commitment to having that type of program,” says Birkholt, who directed the team at Creighton University for 14 years. “I fully expect to see great things and a lot more innovation coming out of OU.” —Jen Jones Donatelli, BSJ ’98, is a freelance journalist in Los Angeles, California; her credits include REDBOOK, Playboy, Natural Health, and Variety. She also is an adjunct instructor for OHIO’s E. W. Scripps School of Journalism.





## Ohioans in New York



For archival information, go online to [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras).

**LEFT:** Tuneful Bobcats take the subway to the World's Fair in New York City. **ABOVE:** Members "represent a cross section of academic departments," explains the program from the event. PHOTOS COURTESY OF BEVERLY GARRISON FRANCIS

## All's fair, & green, in 1964

Whenever Beverly Garrison Francis, BFA '65, hears "September in the Rain," she is transported back to 1964—when the Bobcat and the rest of the Ohio University Singers appeared at the historic World's Fair in Queens, New York.

"When I think of that [1937 pop] song, it puts me right back in the city with my OHIO family," says Francis on the phone from her home in Centerville, Ohio. "I'll never forget walking the streets of New York in the rain."

For many of the students, the chartered bus provided a passport to their first time leaving Ohio. And what a milestone the trip marked! Themed "Peace through Understanding," the 1964 World's Fair took on deep social significance with the assassination of U.S. President John F. Kennedy five months earlier. The Ford Mustang debuted at the event. Icons like Andy Warhol and Walt Disney sparked news with their exhibits. And Americans sampled Belgian waffles for the first time.

The fair's high profile made the group's accomplishment that much more impressive; they were one of just eight university choruses invited to entertain the masses. Over the course of four days that September, the OHIO troupe of 24 performed selections from Broadway musicals such as *My Fair Lady*, *Brigadoon*, and *Oklahoma!*, plus folk songs, spirituals, and specialty numbers, at pavilions. The voices also stepped in as guest choir at St. Thomas Church on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan.

Their engagement wasn't all work and no play. Francis fondly remembers visiting the Statue of Liberty and watching a taping of

"The Johnny Carson Show." Since the ensemble comprised 12 males and 12 females, director Eugene Wickstrom, assistant professor of organ, paired everyone up for safety. "We were all small-town Athenians, so we were full of wonder being in New York City," shares Francis.

Back at school, the Ohio University Singers were a pretty big deal as well. The crew was structured as part of a year-round class, with students receiving credit for participation. Flourishing a diverse repertoire, they gigged around the Athens Campus and in the community; Francis particularly recalls shows at MemAud, the women in long, black V-neck dresses, their hair in French twist updos.

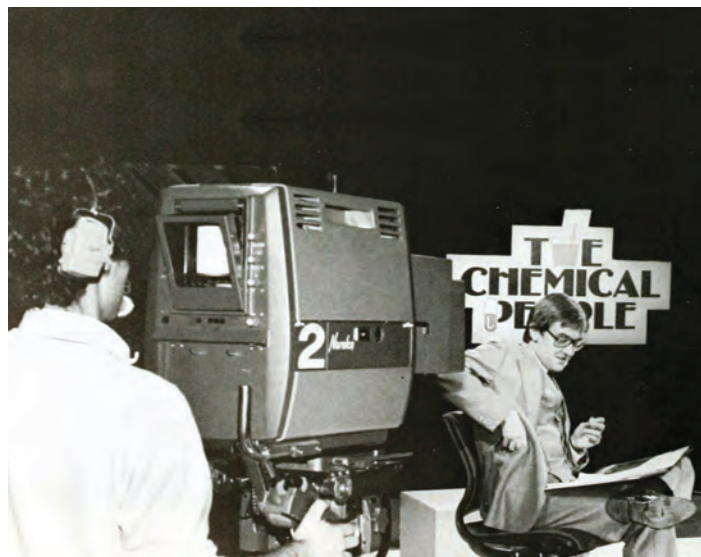
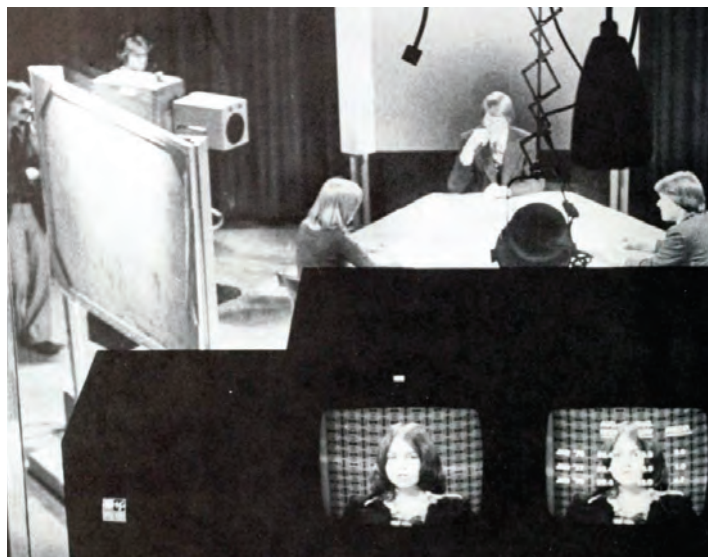
"It was a real honor to be chosen for the Singers; it wasn't just an extracurricular activity," recalls Francis, who went on to teach music for the Centerville school district for 26 years. "The group did a great deal to contribute to the musical atmosphere at OHIO."

The World's Fair ranks as the highlight of her University experiences—though Francis cherishes other memories, too. She also was in the women's glee club, mixed chorus, and marching band. And Francis served as sweetheart for Phi Kappa Theta fraternity, which counted her now-husband, Ralph Francis, BSED '65, a retired high school vocational teacher and coach, as a member.

Today, the Athens bond continues through their oldest granddaughter, Corin Link, BBA '14, who works at Dayton-based Reynolds and Reynolds, which provides support for automotive dealerships.

"The overwhelming spirit of being a Bobcat never goes away," chimes the singer. Nor does a trip to a world away a half-century ago.

—Jen Jones Donatelli, BSJ '98



## Running the gamut

Such breadth of headlines at OHIO 30-plus years ago! For instance, Roger Secoy, the “Zamboni Man” at Bird Arena, became a fan favorite while cleaning the ice between periods at hockey games. About 1,000 students joined Greek fraternities and sororities. Former Environmental Protection Agency administrator Anne Burford, who resigned under fire in March 1983 after 22 months of controversies, spoke about environmentalism to 400 listeners. More seminal 1984 Bobcat moments follow.

## And, we’re live!

Clockwise from top left: “Sophisticated equipment at WOUB-TV allows students to gain valuable experience in real-life situations,” observes the 1978 *Spectrum Green* yearbook. WOUB-TV reaches an audience of 1.5 million people in Ohio and West Virginia, according to the 1984 *Athena* yearbook. Left to right: Marah Eakin, BSJ '03, CERT '03, MED '05; Emily Kohler, BA '03; and Matt Erhardt put in a word at ACRN, the student-run All Campus Radio Network, “53.5 hours into the 129.3 hour marathon that marked station 99.3’s 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary,” explains the 2001 *Athena*, adding that ACRN was the first college station to broadcast over the Internet. Marlon Primes, BSJ '86, “mans the controls of WOUB-AM radio,” reports the 1985 *Athena*; he went on to earn a law degree at Georgetown and work for the U.S. Attorney’s Office. —Editor Peter Szatmary



## The transmission of milestones

In September, the University of Illinois Press published my first book, *Word Warrior: Richard Durham, Radio, and Freedom*, a biography of the National Radio Hall of Fame inductee and inventive African American writer. A versatile pioneer in mass communications, Durham (1917-84) created “Destination Freedom,” a 30-minute radio series dramatizing the lives of black leaders that aired in Chicago each Sunday from 1948 to 1950, and coauthored *The Greatest*, boxing legend Muhammad Ali’s autobiography.

This fall also marks my 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary as a mass media professor.

I accomplished these milestones partly because of my experiences as a graduate student at Ohio University during the early 1980s.

Previously, I had lived the good life in Oakland, California. I supported myself by flitting around as a freelance print and radio producer/writer. And I treasured the natural beauty and rich smorgasbord of political and social activities in the San Francisco Bay Area.

But as age 30 approached, I yearned for a more defined career path and needed a concrete way to get there. One day at KPFA-FM, the public station where I produced a show, a fellow producer, Candice Francis, told me about an OHIO graduate program designed for people in noncommercial radio and television, particularly those interested in broadcast management. At the time, we harbored dreams of running or owning a radio station or other broadcast entity. So we decided to apply. I figured that if I left the cultural mecca of the Bay Area for the unknown wilds of Athens, at least I’d have a friend with whom to commiserate.

Near campus, we found a wonderful house to rent and shared it with roommates from Algeria and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Our graduate class in the School of Telecommunications (now the School of Media Arts and Studies) included a multicultural and multigenerational mix from Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America, and from eastern, midwestern, southern, and western American cities. Similar mini United Nations-like environments have fueled my media projects and college teaching.

But the amount of reading and writing required during OHIO’s brisk 10-week quarters shocked me. It had been seven years since I soldiered through the rather leisurely pace of an undergraduate semester at Columbia College Chicago. Still, graduate study affirmed my fascination with research and strengthened my facility at writing, tools vital for my eventual book about Durham’s—and America’s—milestones.

Plus, OHIO hired me as a graduate teaching assistant. In California, I had briefly taught junior high school journalism. Was higher education teaching more challenging? Definitely. Did I like it? Absolutely. I loved working with and learning from students. This affinity led me to my current and longstanding professorial path.

OHIO also honed my management skills. Further equipped, I subsequently became a college administrator. And I produced programs about black women community activists, jazz singers, affirmative action, apartheid resistance, and AIDS, among other topics, for radio stations and media networks in America, the Caribbean, and South Africa. National Public Radio, Public Radio International, and the Smithsonian Institution have presented my work.

Today, I continue to cherish relationships with OHIO colleagues. My pal Candice Francis, MA ’83, is communications director of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights in the San Francisco Bay Area. Michele Bertrand, MA ’83, is a director of development at George Washington University’s School of Medicine and Health Sciences. We three OHIO alums still plot regular adventures together. I also consult with Bobcat professors—especially retired graduate program director Charles “Buzz” Clift, former faculty member Maisha Hazzard, and current School of Media Arts and Studies director Drew McDaniel—on career issues and personal updates.

So, I remain grateful to OHIO. Those memorable moments, milestones themselves, helped me become the writer, educator, and media producer I am today. —*Sonja D. Williams, MA ’84, is a professor in the Howard University Department of Media, Journalism, and Film and a radio producer who has won three George Foster Peabody Awards.*

### Also in 1984 at OHIO ...

- Punk rocker Billy Idol emits a “Rebel Yell” at Memorial Auditorium in a provocative show; jazz great Dizzy Gillespie trumpets something old, something new, for Homecoming; and the pop/soul duo Hall and Oates croon to 6,000 “private eyes” at the Convocation Center.
- Yolanda King, daughter of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., headlines Black History Month.
- Students receive upward of \$23 million in scholarships and financial aid.
- Tuition accounts for 43 percent of the money spent to run the University.
- Students hail from 49 of the 50 U.S. states—all but Wyoming.
- Foreign students from 84 countries constitute 10 percent of the student body.
- The national fitness craze sweeps the school.
- A popular student drinking game: imbibing when a cast member from the hit sitcom “Newhart” says the titular actor/character’s first name, Bob, on an episode.
- Bobcats break the record for the world’s largest game of Twister (right), with 908 students contorting at Bird Arena—until Colgate University assembles 1,138 participants two weeks later.



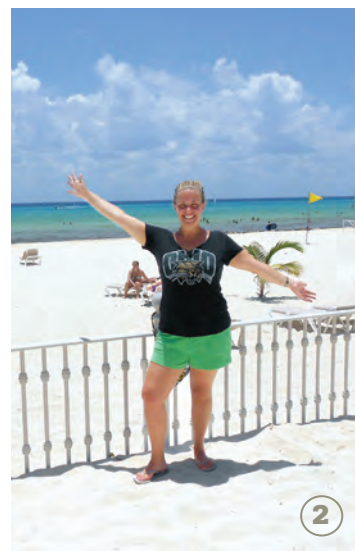
—Entries compiled by Editor Peter Szatmary from Athena yearbooks. PHOTO COURTESY OF MAHN CENTER FOR ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

## Bobcat sightings

OHIO reaches the ends of the Earth and many far-flung points in between! **1. U.S. Air Force Capt. Monica Clodwick, BSC '05**, unfurled a Bobcat banner at the Canadian Forces Station Alert. Located in the Qikiqtaaluk Region, Nunavut, Canada, along the 82<sup>nd</sup> Parallel North, the station provides military communications plus environmental and research projects—and is the northernmost permanently inhabited place settlement in the world. **2. Noelle Policastro, BMUS '10**, “was rocking my OHIO T-shirt” on vacation in August in Riviera Maya, Mexico, she wrote. Her boyfriend snapped this photo at the beachfront of their hotel, the Riu Palace Riviera Maya. Policastro teaches elementary orchestra for the Long Beach, N.Y., Public Schools. **3. Matt Brandon, MA '93** (center), trekked in June to Gullfoss waterfall in southwest Iceland with **Candi Reiheld, BSC '95, CERT '95, AAS '05**, and her husband, **David Pascoe, BS '93, BS '97, MA '99**. **4. Sean Reynolds, BSC '12**, ran the 2015 Boston Marathon in 3:29:53. He entered his first marathon in Athens as an OHIO undergraduate in 2012, Reynolds wrote by e-mail. **5. Scott Ervin, BA '00**, took his third-grade class from Fairborn (Ohio) Primary School on a tour of the Athens



1



2



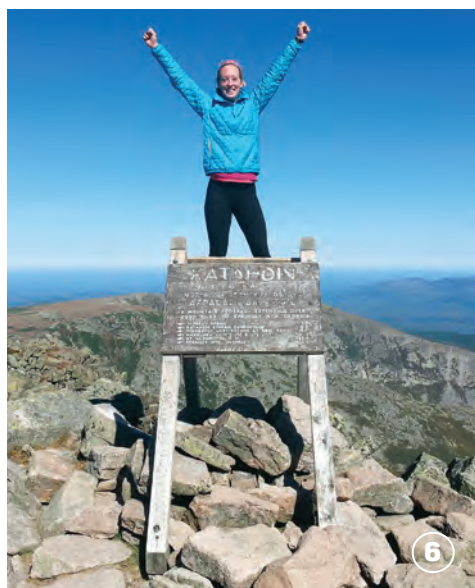
3



4



5



6



7

Campus. Ervin integrates OHIO into his lessons—and OHIO fight song, “Stand up and Cheer!” **6. Kate Schmidlin, BSPE '14**, thru-hiked the 2,185 mile Appalachian Trail, beginning March 23, 2014, on Springer Mountain in Georgia and finishing Sept. 24, 2014, at Mount Katahdin in Maine. She enjoyed the rigors, beauty, and culture of the path and meeting fellow journeyers. (See page 38.) Schmidlin also was happy “to leave the ticks and poison ivy behind.” **7. Makenzie Bowker, BSJ '11**, and **Robert Kosek, BA '12**, wed on May 30 at the First United Methodist Church in Athens. They honeymooned in Montego Bay, Jamaica. She works as a social media producer for HLN, and he is an associate project manager at the Metro Atlanta (Georgia) Chamber. They live in Atlanta. —Compiled by Editor Peter Szatmary

Send your photos to [ohiotoday@ohio.edu](mailto:ohiotoday@ohio.edu) or Ohio Today, 213 McKee House, 1 Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701.





## Future Bobcats

"Every child begins the world again," observed the American writer and transcendentalist

Henry David Thoreau in *Walden* in 1854.

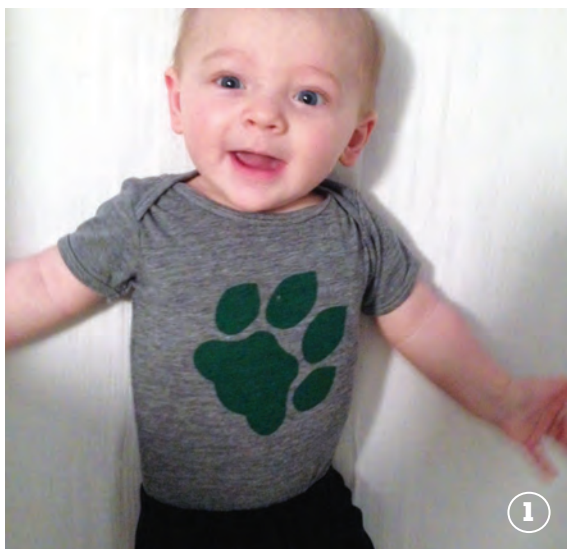
OHIO parents shared a few details about the newborn milestones in their family—and ours—via e-mail.—*Editor Peter Szatmary*

### 1. WYATT MARTIN

*Born:* Nov. 12, 2014; 8 lb, 1 oz; 20½ in

*Photo:* 19 lb, 6 oz, 27¾ in, at 6 months

*Parents:* **Molly Parrish Martin, BSS '01**, freelance photo and fashion stylist, and Israel Martin, program coordinator of student life and a doctoral student in higher education and student affairs at The Ohio State University



*Siblings:* First child

*Residence:* Columbus

*Emerging personality:* "Wyatt is the happiest and sweetest baby. He smiles all the time and loves everybody. His eyes light up when he smiles, and he brings our family insane amounts of joy."

### 2. IAN LEA

*Born:* Sept. 18, 2014; 7 lb, 4 oz; 20½ in

*Photo:* 21½ lb, 29 in, at 8 months

*Parents:* **Jennifer Bonnar, BSJ '05**, managing editor at Lachina Publishing Services, Cleveland, Ohio, and **Jason Lea, BSJ '05**, community outreach coordinator at Mentor (Ohio) Public Library

*Siblings:* First child

*Residence:* Wickliffe

*Parental resemblance:* "He looks a lot like dad. But we also think he has mom's ears and nose."

*Emerging personality:* "Ian is active, curious, and vocal. He loves roughhousing and would rather stand and walk than crawl. He's also a shameless flirt!"

### 3. CONNOR EDWARD VERWEST

*Born:* Oct. 31, 2014; 8 lb, 13 oz; 20 in

*Photo:* Approximately 6 months

*Parents:* **Erin Hitchner VerWest, BA '01**, an elementary school gifted-and-talented resource teacher turned stay-at-home mom, and Jason VerWest, IT director at SiriusXM Radio

*Siblings:* Brother, Ryan, 2½

*Residence:* Arlington, Virginia

*Parental resemblance:* "Has mom's eyes."

*Emerging personality:* "Independent and determined to keep up with his big brother!"

### 4. CLAIRE FILIPIAK

*Born:* May 20; 7 lb, 3½ oz; 20 in

*Photo:* 8 lb, 21 in, at 8 weeks

*Parents:* **Sarah Scragg Filipiak, BSJ '01**, interim director, online and digital communication,

Advancement Communication & Marketing, Ohio University, and **Patrick Filipiak, BA '99, MED '14**, 7/8 grade math teacher, Eastern Middle School, Reedsville, Ohio

*Siblings:* Older sister, Amelia, 3. "And our pets: four dogs (two whippets, a German shepherd, and a mixed-breed 'Nelsonville, Ohio, special') and a cat."

*Residence:* Guysville

*Parental resemblance:* "Looks like her mom—same eyes, ears, and nose."

*Emerging personality:* "Claire is a calm baby who loves to be held outdoors and enjoys hanging out with her sister."

*Adorableness example:* "Curls her body into a C shape when she smiles!"



## WE ARE FAMILY, BOBCAT-STYLE

Last September, **Brad Bush, BBA '83**, father of Ryan, a senior management information systems and business analytics major, awoke to a text message and photo from **Mike Gregg, BBA '83**, sent from Athens while visiting his son, Evan, a junior sports management major.

The note derived from the progeny and was transmitted at 1 a.m., papa Bush said, "on Court Street, probably where they shouldn't have been, with their arms around each other, having a good time."

Decades earlier, Brad and Mike had a similar good time from their nearby uptown apartment. The middle-aged alums remain close—with **Patrick Donadio, BSC '80, MBA '81; Sedat Gokcen, BSEE '82, MA '84**; and his wife, **Jeanne Gokcen, BSHS '82, MAHS '84**, too.

In fact, for two decades, the quintet has conducted its own milestone: a New Year's Eve party. Celebrating at one of their homes in Columbus or Cleveland, they reminisce over euchre, wage Silly String battles, and dine potluck. Everyone sleeps over, kids included. The group formed at OHIO residence life. Donadio, Bush, and the Gokcens worked at Lincoln Hall and Johnson Hall. Gregg lived in Lincoln.

Donadio is "ringleader," Bush said, since he was their boss as resident director. Donadio has stayed in touch with many former employees.

"I'm Italian, right?" Donadio said. "When I connect with people, they become family."

Indeed, the crew has attended or been in each other's weddings and gone on outings. —Jon Greenberg, BSJ '01, lives in Deerfield, Illinois, and has worked for ESPN, TouchVision, and Team Marketing Report.

1981-82 Lincoln/Johnson residence life staff, left to right. **FRONT ROW:** Jerry Rinehart, BSC '83; Tim Connor, BSC '82, MED '83; Sedat Gokcen, BSEE '82, MA '84; Patrick Donadio, BSC '80, MBA '81; and Brad Bush, BBA '83. **BACK ROW:** Brian Beasley, BSJ '83; Jeanne Holloway Gokcen, BSHS '82, MAHS '84; Leslie Maltz; Danielle Frank-Mason, AB '84; Laurie Fudale Laturell, BSED '82; and Tom Pavilon, BSCHE '84. PATRICK DONADIO PROVIDED THE CAPTION AND PHOTO



► The story and photos continue at [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras).

## FRIENDSHIP OF THE TRAVELING LETTERS

A fun tradition that started between two friends living two doors apart in Tiffin Hall endures, even thrives, after 35 years and 440 miles.

**Debra Rudel, BSHS '84**, and **Janis Schriener, BA '84**, started hanging paper letter versions of "Happy Birthday" on their room doors freshman year. Since 1980, they've used those same letters every year to wish each other well.

"I lost touch with most of my college friends," says Schriener, "but I think the letters helped keep me and Debbie close."

Over the decades, the festive garland traveled from Canada to Florida and from Monroeville, Pennsylvania (Rudel's home), to Athens, Ohio (Schriener's residence). It always arrives in time.

Often in surprising ways, thanks to family and friends. Inside restaurant menus, for instance. And at a Cleveland Indians game from a cotton candy vendor. —Zulfa Rizqiya, BSJ '17

## ENCOUNTERING BOBCATS ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL

**Adam Jones, BSETM '12**, and **Kate Schmidlin, BSPE '14**, recently thru-hiked the Appalachian Trail by themselves—and met along the way. Read about their milestone adventure at [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras).



PHOTO BY BRIAN KELLOGG, BSS '07 | BRIANKELLOGG.COM

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## New alumni board members

The Ohio University Alumni Association (OUAA) added three new directors to its board as of July 1: **Bryon Carley, BSC '81**; **Kyle Triplett, BA '12**; and **Julia Brophy Righter, BSC '78**.

Carley, a communications major, owns and manages Carley Insurance Services and Carley Properties in central Ohio.

Triplett, former president of the Ohio University Student Senate and OHIO student trustee, is a manager at Olympic Steel, near Cleveland, Ohio. He also serves on the OHIO Student Senate Alumni Society board.

Righter, 1990 recipient of OUAA's Distinguished Service Award, has held multiple positions in the Central Ohio Alumni Network and served on the University's *Third Century* and *Promise Lives* campaigns. An organizational communications graduate, Righter manages communications for St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Dublin, Ohio. —*Kaitlyn Pacheco, BSJ '17*

**'49 Patricia Thorne, BFA '49**, earned a rave review for her book, *The Untold Story of the Teddy Bear*, in the summer edition of *Doll News*, the journal of the United Federation of Doll Clubs. She chronicles the history of the famous cuddly toy by the German manufacturer Steiff and pays tribute to her grandfather, who Thorne states was the first buyer to purchase one for a Chicago department store—and the person to name the bear “Teddy.” Through “beautifully illustrated chapters,” she provides “exciting new information about who truly introduced the first Steiff-made teddy bear to America in 1903,”

*Doll News* proclaims. Thorne, who released the title in 2012 through Dog Ear Publishing, lives in Sun Valley, Idaho.

**'57 John Wyand, BSCO '57, MBA '58**, and his wife, Pauline, celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary by traveling from their home in Sarasota, Florida, to Thomas Point Beach, Maine, for a reunion with family and friends. Wyand, retired, once owned a paper industry search-consulting firm.

**'58 Rosemary Blum Hopkins, BFA '58**, was appointed associate literary manager at Break-A-Leg Productions in New York City. She also directs new works by emerging playwrights for the troupe.

**'62 Kenneth Rocco, AB '62**, retired as a judge after 32 years on the bench, 14 years in trial court and, most recently, 18 years on the Ohio Court of Appeals, Eighth District. He and his wife, **Rebecca Rocco, BSED '63**, live in Brecksville, Ohio.

**'63 Karin Frick Gibbs, BSED '63**, and her husband, Robert, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They live in Georgetown, Colorado.

**Lenore Kola, AB '63**, retired from Case Western Reserve University after 39 years of teaching social work. She continues there as co-director of the Center for Evidence-Based Practices, a joint program between the School of Applied Social Sciences and the Department of Psychiatry.

**'68 Lois Siegel, BSJ '68, MA '70**, exhibited her photography in solo shows at the Shenkman Arts Centre and the Ottawa Folklore Centre and in a group show at the St. Laurent Complex through Arteast, Ottawa. She lives in a suburb of Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

**'69 John William Keller, BSED '69**, retired from teaching after 40 years. He most recently taught chemistry and physics in English to Chinese students in Linyi, Shandong, China, helping them prepare for American higher education. In an e-mail, Keller, who lives in Walnut, California, called this experience the “opus” of his career.

**'70 Charles Hall, MA '70**, retired as president of Florida Gateway College after 18 years in the role and 45 years in the community college system. He received the designation of president emeritus, a first at the school. Hall earlier was president of Mohave Community College from 1984 to 1997. He and his wife, Robin, live in Lake City, Florida.

**'71 Lin Rockwell Cargo, BSJ '71, MED '72**, retired from the University of Michigan after 31 years. She managed the development staff at the College of Engineering for 17 years. In the past five years, Cargo created an international



## Ohio University Alumni Association

# 2016 TOURS

Cuba, April 23–May 2

<b>Wings over Tanzania</b> <b>Jan. 18–29</b>	<b>American Empress: Passage of Lewis and Clark</b> <b>May 7–15</b>
<b>Pacific Dreams of the Tahitian Islands</b> <b>Jan. 25–Feb. 4</b>	<b>Essential Europe</b> <b>May 17–June 4</b>
<b>Wonders of the Galapagos Islands</b> <b>Feb. 14–23</b>	<b>Spain: Barcelona and San Sebastian</b> <b>June 5–14</b>
<b>Stepping Stones of Western Europe</b> <b>April 23–May 1</b>	<b>Grand Danube Passage</b> <b>June 22–July 6</b>
<b>Grand Cuban Voyage</b> <b>April 23–May 2</b>	<b>Coastal Maine and New Brunswick</b> <b>July 6–13</b>
<b>Ireland–Westport</b> <b>May 3–11</b>	<b>Alaska Passages</b> <b>July 25–Aug. 4</b>
<b>A Transpacific Voyage: Lands and Islands of Mystery</b> <b>May 5–19</b>	<b>London Immersion</b> <b>Aug. 17–28</b>

Click on the “travel” link at [ohio.edu/alumni](http://ohio.edu/alumni)



**More OHIO Milestones**  
**Women's curfew ends in 1972** (pictured). The first (then-unofficial) **Halloween Party** takes place on Court Street in **1974** when costumed students trap a semitrailer attempting to make a delivery to a Baskin-Robbins ice cream parlor. In

**1979, Hilda Richards** serves as the **University's first female academic dean and first African-American dean of an academic college**, presiding over the new College of Health and Human Services. —*Maygan Beeler, BSJ '17, and Editor Peter Szatmary* PHOTO COURTESY OF MAHN CENTER FOR ARCHIVES & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

development program and directed her college's participation in the forthcoming UMich bicentennial in 2017.

**'73 Fred Fastenau, BSED '73**, now coordinates teacher candidate support at Otterbein University in Westerville, Ohio.

**'74 Betsy Hammer, BGS '74, BMUS '78**, became vocal coach for ISINA,

a worldwide talent search and development firm. Her latest film gig is singing in the movie *Pitch Perfect 2*. Other credits: 12 years with Adam Sandler's film company, Happy Madison Productions, as an associate music supervisor, singer, and actress. She lives in Beverly Hills, California.

**'76 Ken Frick, BFA '76**, ran the New York City and Boston marathons. A retired

freelance photographer, he and his wife, Cindy, live in Columbus, Ohio. "After years of reading about others, I have something to share," Frick wrote.

**'77 Tony Wigton, BSC '77**, retired from The Ohio State University Medical Center/James Cancer Hospital after 18 years in financial services and data analysis. He earlier spent 14 years at various radio outlets and then became a certified public accountant. Wigton moved to Whitemarsh Island, Savannah, Georgia, and plans on sunning and surfing at Tybee Island or reading on his deck and listening to rock-and-roll.

**'79 Sharon Fountain, AB '79**, a partner at the Dallas office of Thompson & Knight, a full-service law firm, earned recognition in employee benefits and executive compensation, domestic tax, and international tax in the 2015 *Legal 500 United States* directory, published by Legalease.

**Lynne Meredith, BSC '79**, was named one of the Outstanding Women of Stanislaus County, California, by the Stanislaus County Commission for Women. A Stanislaus County Superior Court commissioner, certified family law specialist, and trained mediator, she was cited for volunteering "to help improve the lives of young women." Examples include being a member of the Soroptimist International of Modesto businesswomen's service organization for females; a manager of the Scenic Modesto Service Unit of the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California; and a guest speaker at Modesto City School District's annual "Day of Respect." Meredith lives with her husband, Greg Spiering, in Modesto.

**'80 Will Richardson, BCJ '80**, was named one of 67 influential educators to watch by Noodle, a free education site. A co-founder of Modern Learner Media, prolific author, and veteran educator,

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## Make a toast & crack a crustacean

Want to make an Ohio University-themed pilgrimage? Start much farther east than the Athens Campus.

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The watering hole—"the best punch house in Boston," said Capt. Francis Goelet in 1750—is where the Ohio Company of Associates met to shepherd the purchase of the Northwest Territory and establish OHIO, the first university west of the Allegheny Mountains.

The leadership at Ohio University Alumni Association's Massachusetts Chapter Serving New England uncovered that historic tie OHIO has to the region. And others: the First Congregational Church in Hamilton and The General Rufus Putnam House in nearby Rutland.

In July, the chapter celebrated those ties and chapter milestones at its first annual Manasseh Cutler's Lobster Fest. Cutler was not only a member of the Ohio Company of Associates and a founding father of OHIO, but also the longtime reverend of the Hamilton church, a botanist, lawyer, legislator, and a man of medicine. The event was also named after the chapter's preferred cuisine: lobster.

Go online to [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras) for a video of the celebration. Also see page 43. —*Kelee Garrison Riesbeck, BSJ '91, assistant director, Advancement Communication & Marketing*

he was cited, in part, for being "a staunch advocate of updating current education systems to incorporate the opportunities that the Internet and social media networks offer."

**'82 Alan Miller, BSJ '82, MS '02**, was promoted to editor of *The Columbus*

*Dispatch* in August. He had been interim editor since June. Before that, Miller was managing editor since 2004. He began at the paper as a Newark bureau reporter in 1984 and held several reporting and editing positions over the next two decades. A member of the professional advisory board of OHIO's E. W. Scripps School of Journalism and president of the national Associated Press Media Editors, Miller also teaches journalism at Denison University.

**'83 Ronald Sicker, BSEE '83**, received an Exceptional Service Medal from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. He works as a project manager at NASA's Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. The commendation referenced his oversight of the site's Light Microscopy Module, which provides researchers with diagnostic hardware and software onboard the International Space Station. The award culminates 33 years of service with NASA and the U.S. Air Force as a flight test engineer—duties that started with his OHIO degree and pilot training at the OHIO airport, wrote Sicker. He added that his immediate family includes numerous Bobcats.

**'85 Kevin Clingaman, BGS '85**, vice president and senior investment advisor with the Huntington Investment Company, made the list of "Toledo [Ohio] Area Leading Registered Financial Advisors" compiled in April by the *Toledo Business Journal*.

**Pamela DeSalvo Landis, BSJ '85**, was promoted to

vice president of information services at Carolinas HealthCare System. She had been assistant vice president. Landis lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.

**'87 Tricia Nolfi, BSC '87, MED '89**, is now an assistant professor in the Department of Graduate Education, Leadership, and Counseling at Rider University. She had been an adjunct.

**'89 John P. Duggan, BSC '89**, a licensed professional counselor, became manager for professional development at the American Counseling Association. Founded in 1952, based in

Alexandria, Virginia, and serving 55,000 members, it is "the world's largest association exclusively representing professional counselors in various practice settings," according to the group's website.

**'90 Sandy McDonald Davis, BSC '90**, was elected international vice president of organizational relations of the grand council of Alpha Delta Pi sorority. Founded at Wesleyan Female College in Macon, Georgia, in 1851, it's the first secret society established for college women. More than 245,000 women participate in 155 active



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collegiate chapters and upward of 150 alumnae associations to promote scholarship, leadership, sisterhood, and service. Davis pledged in 1987 as an undergraduate at OHIO and was chapter president in 1989.

**'91 Jamie Joyce Watson, AB '91**, a patrol lieutenant with the Winter Park, Florida, Police Department, married Elston Watson, Army 1st Sgt. (Ret.), who works with special needs children and coaches junior varsity basketball at Oviedo High School. The wedding occurred on Dec. 20, 2014, in the Central Park Rose Garden in downtown Winter Park. "We honeymoon every

day," the Bobcat wrote, "and celebrated our nuptials in Orlando with our four children, close friends and family."

**'92 Kathy Weible, BBA '92**, became CFO of Mindstream Interactive, a full-service digital agency in Columbus. Her previous job was as executive vice president of Leaderpromos.com, a distributor of promotional products.

**'94 Brian Coe, BSJ '94**, vice president of operations for the Wilkes-Barre/Scranton Penguins, won the 2014-15 Ken McKenzie Award from the American Hockey League. The prize

honors a team executive who best promotes a club; Coe earned kudos for social media engagement, digital media excellence, and fan experience.

**Peggy Dillon, MS '94, PHD '97**, rose to associate professor of communications at Salem State University. She had been an assistant professor.

**'96 Ami Crites Cole, BSH '96**, has been promoted to president of Molina Healthcare of Ohio, a health plan subsidiary of Molina Healthcare, Inc. She had been chief operating officer. Before that, Cole was vice president of network management and operations at the Columbus-based company. She has more than 17 years of experience in healthcare.

**'99 Steven Barth, BA '99**, made the top 50 list of "Pittsburgh Super Lawyers" by *Pennsylvania Super Lawyers* for the second consecutive year. His firm, Barth & Associates, established in 2012, focuses on plaintiff personal injury.

**'00 Samantha Weber, BSJ '00**, married Karl Hynes on April 18 at the Venus Garden at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, the city in which they live. The couple honeymooned in Aruba. She works as the association governance manager of the Western region of Marriott Vacations Worldwide; he is the director of valet and bell services at the Marriott's Grand Chateau.

**'02 Kevin Bruegge, BBA '02**, and his partners and other colleagues at Evelo/Singer/Sullivan Group,

part of Merrill Lynch's private banking and investment group in Cincinnati, were profiled in *Barron's* investment magazine as one of the three best financial advisory teams in the industry. Bruegge heads research. He began as an entry-level analyst in 2002 and became a principal in 2010.

**Ben Patterson, BSC '02**, won another award for his feature-length documentary, *Sweet Micky for President*: best international director at the 2015 Documentary Edge Film Festival in New Zealand. He earlier earned the audience award and the jury award at the annual Slamdance Film Festival. Director Patterson follows Pras Michel, formerly of the hip-hop group the Fugees, on a trip to Haiti after the 2010 earthquake to mobilize the ultimately successful political campaign for musician and businessman Michel Martelly, the titular figure. Patterson lives in New York City.

**'03 Lourinda Givens Willey, AA '03**, was inducted into the National Association of Professional Women's VIP Professional Woman of the Year Circle for 2015-16 for leadership in safety, environment, health, and emergency response. Her eponymous company offers project support and training, technical writing, emergency response plans, site-specific safety, evacuation, tabletop drills, OSHA compliance, and more. The professional women's association includes more than 700,000 members and 200 local chapters. She lives in Frisco, Texas.



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### Cookin' Bobcat-style

Eat up the OHIO pilgrimage Northeast! John Porter, son of Roy Moore Lobster Company owners Ken and Karen Porter and next in line at the Rockport, Massachusetts-based eatery that many locals favor, schools the uninitiated on how to cook the perfect lobster. The company supplied the crimson crustaceans for the Manasseh Cutler's Lobster Fest. And OHIO alumna and food writer Felicia Berger, BSC '13, whips up Bobcat Broccoli Salad as a side dish. —Staff report

► For video and recipe: [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras)

Software Association and its only female lobbyist. Strobel earlier served as director of policy and legislation for Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine.

**'08 Stephanie Hall McIntosh, BS '08**, was promoted to senior aquarium bird keeper at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium in Nebraska. She also was appointed the southern rockhopper penguin studbook keeper and species survival plan coordinator.

**'10 Eric Brakey, BFA '10**, was elected to the Maine state Senate. The Republican represents District 20, chairs the health and human services committee, and serves on the environmental and natural resources committee. He also manages financial records for Brakey Energy, a family-owned energy management company.

**'11 Kortinae Airey, BSS '11**, joined the Lima, Ohio, office of Rea & Associates, a regional accounting and business consulting firm, as an administrative assistant.

**Elizabeth Biglin, BBA '11**, accepted a position as a senior administrator in the defined contribution recordkeeping and administration group at the Toledo office of Findley Davies, a multiregional human resources consulting firm.

**'14 Vinny Allen, BFA '14**, is now an interactive designer at Sudden Impact Marketing, a business-to-business marketing firm in Columbus. He had been a graphic designer at OhioHealth. —Compiled by Editor Peter Szatmary

**'06 Jennifer Vero Baxter, BSJ '06**, married Derek Baxter on April 11 at St. Anthony's All Saints Parish in Canton, Ohio. She works as a front-end web developer at Bed Bath & Beyond corporate headquarters in Union, New Jersey; he is assistant superintendent of the Paramount Country Club in New City, New York. Her sister, **Stephanie Vero, BSHC '12**, was the maid of honor. The newlyweds live in Hackensack.

**'07 Kristin Strobel, BA '07, CERT '07, MA '08**, made the list of the "50 Most Beautiful" for 2015, according to *The Hill* newspaper, which is for and about the U.S. Congress, Capitol Hill, K Street, and the White House. A Republican, she is the director of state government affairs at the Entertainment

## OHIO ALUMNI BOOKS

Ohio University alumni publish books across subjects and genres. Here are releases within the last year.

***Operation Pucker Up***, young-reader novel about a theater girl's first kiss, for ages 9-13 (Simon & Schuster/Aladdin Mix), by Rachele Alpine, BSED '01

***Subbing***, memoir by a former substitute teacher (La Maison Publishing), by Anonymous, AB '72

***Airplane Yoga for Everyone***, illustrated guide (Amazon Digital Services), by April Baiella, pseudonym for Jennifer Bale, BA '98

***Shooting for the Stars***, mystery novel, part of the Gil Malloy series (Simon & Schuster/Atria), by Richard G. Belsky, BSJ '67

***The Crystal Tower: Book 1***, fantasy adventure for children in grades 3-12 (Amazon Digital Services), by author Luann Tennant Coyne, MA '78, and illustrator Rebecca Solow

***Richard Felton of Early North Carolina***, genealogy (Otter Bay Books), by Stephen S. Felt, BSCHE '70

***Smuggler's End: The Life and Death of Barry Seal***, biography (Pelican Publishing), by Del Hahn, BSC '59

***Loren Miller: Civil Rights Attorney and Journalist***, biography (University of Oklahoma Press), by Amina Hassan, MA '00, PHD '05, CERT '05

***The Making of Major League***, behind-the-scenes look at the 1989 baseball movie (Gray & Company), by Jonathan Knight, BSJ '99

***Resist***, second in a series of young-adult dystopian novels (Buddhapuss Ink), by Tracy Lawson, BSC '88

***Why Me? Why Not Me!***, self-help and autobiography about "overcoming tragedy, addiction, and [other] challenges" (AuthorHouse), by Jon Logan, MHA '15

***An Account of a West Virginia Boy in the Korean War***, memoir (Korean War Educator), by Charles C. Scott, MFA '56

***Love and Sacrifice***, narrative nonfiction about an American military family during WWII (CreateSpace), by Dennis Whitehead, BSJ '79 —Compiled by Editor Peter Szatmary

If you're a Bobcat author and want to be considered for a future OHIO alumni books list, send a press release about your recent or forthcoming work to Ohio Today, 213 McKee House, 1 Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701 or via e-mail to [ohiotoday@ohio.edu](mailto:ohiotoday@ohio.edu).

## 1930s

James N. Warren, Jr., BSED '37, MS '51  
Richard E. Amacher, BA '39  
William I. Carle, AB '39  
Dana F. Swick, COED '39, BSED '47,  
MED '48

## 1940s

Arlyne (Demmy) Meyer, BSED '40  
USAF Maj. Gen. (Ret.) John W. Kline, '41  
Elizabeth C. (Wade) Lutz, BSED '41  
Donald F. Potter, AB '41  
Jane M. (McElfresh) Kinney, BSHEC '42  
Betty J. (Watts) McBrayer, BSED '42  
Rachel R. Osborne, BSJ '42  
Robert E. Apple, BSCE '43  
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John Wilder, BSCOM '43  
Rev. Dale Lee Van Meter, AB '44  
Judith Gross, ELST '45  
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Agnes (Krueck) Crawford, BSED '46  
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of Education)  
Annette M. (Mann) Benson, BSED '47  
USAF Col. (Ret.) Dean E. Hess, MA '47  
Mary J. (Shepherd) Justus, BSED '47  
Shirley (Biller) Max, BS '47  
Betty L. (Woodburn) Fall, BS '48  
Bernard D. Miller, BSCOM '48  
Richard P. Nicholas, Jr., BS '48  
Henry S. Saulnier, BS '48  
Edward C. Weatherhead, BSIE '48  
Clyde E. Wimer, BSJ '48  
George Diab, BSJ '49  
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John R. Linscott, AB '49  
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William I. O'Brien, BSED '52  
Theodore J. Pavlick, Jr., AB '52  
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Phyllis J. (Kunze) Tate, BSHEC '52  
Joy Mahan Allen, AB '53  
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BSED '53  
Charles J. Krauskopf, AB '53  
Beryl Hannon Dade, BSED '54  
Shirley K. Odebrecht, AB '54  
Jacqueline (Wisby) Schmidt, BSED '54  
Jean E. Smith, BS '54, MS '56  
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Rt. Rev. David C. Bowman, AB '55  
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Peggie (Holliday) Halberstadt,  
BSED '55  
Jean (Zerckel) Piety, AB '55  
Kenneth J. Skala, BSCOM '55  
Elva E. Smith, BSME '55  
Russell A. Balser, BSME '56  
Bernard K. Patterson, '56  
James W. Ratcliff, AB '56  
Millie (Zailac) Vovos, '56  
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Ronald G. Curtice, BSAE '57  
Irwin I. Glick, BSCOM '57  
Florence Thress Hales, BFA '57  
Karl E. Haschart, BSEE '57  
James A. Jones, BSAGR '57  
Donald R. Malster, '57  
Thomas N. Vorndran, BSAE '57  
Joseph W. Pollard, MS '58  
George M. Romey, BSEE '58  
John E. Wagner, BSCOM '58  
Karen M. (Chapman) Brisbois, AB '59  
E. J. Caldwell, BS '59  
Richard Leon Hillard, AB '59  
Emily A. Householder, AB '59  
Charles L. Roe, BSCOM '59  
William F. Wadsworth, BS '59

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Melvin Weiner, BSCOM '50  
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Lionel H. Boucher, BSCE '51  
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Alma M. (Pollard) Coit, BSED '51  
Janice W. (Waller) Davis, BSHEC '51  
Linda (Pedigo) Finsterwald, AB '51  
Richard A. Hammond, BSED '51

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Marlyce (Osland) Jones, BSED '60  
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William R. Meadors, BSIT '60  
Jack F. Park, BSEE '60  
Robert L. Arnold, MA '61, PHD '64  
Jerry J. Mallett, BSED '61  
Eugene P. Mocilnikar, BSED '61  
Richard Zuckerman, BS '61, BSED '65

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Wendell L. Marratta, BSED '62  
C. D. Milligan, BSED '62  
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MSISE '77  
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BSHEC '64  
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D. Larry Kline, BSED '65  
Howard A. Rea, BSED '65  
Jeffrey W. Kaumeyer, BSJ '66  
David W. McTighe, BBA '66  
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EMERT '92  
David C. Austin, BBA '67  
Joseph D. Carter, MED '67  
Ray F. Collins Jr., BBA '67  
Larry D. McKay, BBA '67  
Charles Dennis Murphy, BBA '67  
Patricia L. Ray, BSED '67  
Maxine C. (Conningham) Ross, AB '67  
Galen E. Thompson, BSED '67  
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MSJ '84  
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Wilma V. (Beavers) Gillespie, MED '69  
Jerry L. Jarrell, BSED '69  
Carolyn G. (Hoff) Stamm, BSJ '69

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Wilbert G. Hager, MA '70  
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BSHEC '70  
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Randall F. Benthien, MED '79  
Douglas B. DeFoor, BBA '79

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Scott J. Hoffman, BSC '80  
Michael B. Murphy, MBA '80  
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Mary E. Dillon, BSN '81  
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Kevin John Bonner, BSC '84  
Clinton T. Fallon, BBA '86  
William V. Davis, MBA '87  
Edith Phelps, BS '87  
JoAnn Fry Erwin, BBA '88  
Daniel Evan Konold, DO '88  
Brian K. Miller, AS '88

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George E. Reid, BGS '90, MSPE '91  
Jerry Lee Brown, AA '91, BSS '94  
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MED '05  
Eric Alan Miller, BBA '91  
Richard John Russ, BSHEC '91  
Richard Albert Bradshaw, PHD '92



Jon Peter Sachtjen, AB '96  
 Melissa E. Exum, PHD '98  
 Angela M. (Brigner) Heath,  
 BSHSS '98, MAHSS '00

## 2000s

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 BFA '00  
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 Jennifer A. (Mann) Chaffin, BSH '01,  
 CERT '01  
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 BCJ '07  
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 BSC '05  
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 David Wayne Glover, BSC '06  
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 Leslie T. (Tuttle) McKinley, DO '07

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 Tina M. Parker, AAS '09

## 2010s

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 AAS '10  
 Kevin M. Garrett, AAS '10  
 Tyler Price Komjati, BSJ '10  
 Scott Gerald Vance, BTAS '10  
 Emily M. Weisenberger, AAB '11  
 Dawn Francine Gatton, BSN '12  
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 Tyler Robert Weymouth, BSS '12  
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 Jeffrey Brendan Kelley, BSC '14  
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 Ohio, former administrative  
 associate, Scripps College of  
 Communication, Aug. 6

**John H. Bisbocci**, Martins Ferry,  
 Ohio, emeritus associate professor

of chemistry, Ohio University Eastern  
 Campus, July 31

**Caryl Gustavson**, Athens, Ohio,  
 emerita professor of history, Aug. 24

**Tammy L. Jordan**, Guysville, Ohio,  
 administrative associate, School of  
 Electrical Engineering and Computer  
 Science, Russ College of Engineering  
 and Technology, July 28

**Mary K. Jordan, MA '75**, Athens,  
 Ohio, former lecturer, Ohio Program  
 for Intensive English (1976-2005),  
 May 18

**Frederick Rudolph Lemke**, Lake  
 Orion, Michigan, former associate  
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 Dec. 20, 2013

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 (1990-94), May 26, 2013

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 Services (1981-2008), June 28

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 former energy manager, Utilities  
 Maintenance (1968-99), May 7

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 Athens, Ohio, emeritus director of  
 electronic media services, College of

Fine Arts (1969-99), May 17

**Jeffrey Lynn Shira**, Ravenswood,  
 West Virginia, senior training  
 specialist, Computer Services (1997-  
 2015), July 27

**Leslie A. Szabo, BSJ '76**, Cleveland,  
 Ohio, former assistant soccer coach  
 (2000-04), May 23

**Anthony J. Tenoglia**, Englewood,  
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 family medicine (1978-2000), June 14

**David L. Wallace**, Athens, Ohio,  
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**Merry L. Walters, AAB '87,**  
**AA '95**, Lancaster, Ohio, records  
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 University Lancaster Campus  
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**Harry E. Weinbrecht, BSED '56**,  
 Chillicothe, Ohio, instructor and  
 women's basketball coach, Ohio  
 University Southern Campus,  
 May 31—*Compiled by Jennifer Shutt*  
*Bowie, BSJ '94, MS '99, based on information*  
*received by the University's Office of*  
*Advancement Services prior to Sept. 1*

## Make music to OHIO ears

In March 2014, OHIO parent Martie Baum gave to The Ohio University Foundation to enhance undergraduate research and creative activity.

By that fall, senior music majors Turner Matthews and Jacob Schlaerth each received \$414 awards, thanks in part to her generosity, to create a motor-controlled harp, propane tank drums, and an interactive ceramic tile instrument. The musicians performed original compositions on these handmade instruments at OHIO's 2015 Student Expo (pictured) prior to graduating.

Last year, 500-plus OHIO donors made gifts totaling upward of \$13,000 for undergraduate Bobcat research and creative activity.

By joining them, you help students such as Matthews and Schlaerth strike the right note!



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## Written in stone

**Editor's note:** Ohio Today introduces a custom-made crossword. Each puzzle contains a double theme. The longest clues riff on the given topic of the edition, and some shorter ones sprinkle in school trivia. Do you dare to wield a pen or will you use a pencil to fill in your green grid?

For the solution, go to [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras).

### ACROSS

1. Formerly, formerly
5. Passion
10. Taj Mahal city
14. Sound of a crowd, lion, or waterfall
15. Greek mythological figure who wept about her slain children even after being turned into stone
16. Stiffly respectable
17. Major events on road markers?—  
And the theme of this issue of *Ohio Today*
19. Clinton's Transportation Secretary
20. "Yond Cassius has \_\_\_\_\_ and hungry look": *Julius Caesar*
21. Bro's sibling
23. Dangerous curve shape
24. Shoemaker's paving material?
29. "American \_\_\_\_\_," most-watched primetime TV show in the U.S. for eight years
32. U.N. agcy. that won the 1969 Nobel Peace Prize
33. Beach souvenir
34. Citrus building material?
37. In the neighborhood
41. Opp. of WSW
42. Title in Minor League Baseball for Ohio University alumnus Pat O'Conner, MSA '81
43. Ripken, Jr., of the National Baseball Hall of Fame
45. Scram
46. \_\_\_\_\_ and *Sensibility*, Jane Austen novel
48. Gem made of green cheese?
51. Otorhinolaryngologist, for short
53. Card game similar to Crazy Eights
54. Chooses
55. Building foundations where two streets meet?
60. Exploit
61. "*Cogito ergo \_\_\_\_\_*": Descartes
62. Line delivered to the audience
66. Noted athlete Zaharias
68. Grinders around one's neck?
72. Gains wisdom, so it is said
73. Formal requests
74. Ash vessels
75. 1994 Jodie Foster film
76. Dispatches an e-mail
77. Head of France

### DOWN

1. At *Wit's End* author Bombeck, former OHIO student
2. Move turbulently
3. Shopper delight
4. Cloying sentimentality
5. Six-legged worker
6. 2011 film about a macaw
7. Bobcat \_\_\_\_\_ Moser, AB '57, editor of *Smithsonian* magazine, 1981-2001
8. Far from skinny
9. Try not to give in to
10. Smart phone accessory
11. College \_\_\_\_\_, center of the Athens Campus
12. Part of a wash cycle
13. Pile up
18. Prefix with cat or cone
22. Booths
25. Piquancy
26. Blossom
27. Chaney of old horror movies
28. Yoko \_\_\_\_\_, multimedia artist
29. Réunion et Martinique, *par exemple*
30. Jim \_\_\_\_\_, Pop artist and OHIO alumnus, BFA '57
31. Foreboding
35. Embarrassing public displays
36. \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge (hotel chain)
38. Word that can follow lamb or karate
39. "\_\_\_\_\_ Been Good," first dance song performed by the University's Marching 110 and written for the band in 1968
40. Harper, Bruce, Stan, et al.
44. Soon, to Shakespeare
47. Title for Bobcat George Voinovich, AB '58, HON '81 (abbr.)
49. One-third of an inning
50. Dispose of
52. Highest cards in bridge
55. Mark of the Dallas Mavericks
56. River in Missouri

57. \_\_\_\_\_ *Without a Cause*, movie adaptation by OHIO alumnus Irving Shulman, AB '37
58. Prepare for a shot
59. Put away
63. As to, in a memo
64. Fender-bender result
65. \_\_\_\_\_ *quam videri*: North Carolina's motto
67. Subj. often taught in night class
69. Broadway's Cariou
70. Boy
71. U.S. mil. conscription agcy.

— Jim Bernhard has written crossword puzzles for *The New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times* syndicate, among other media. He also has authored books on numerous topics, including *Final Chapters: How Famous Authors Died (2015)* and *Puns, Puzzles, and Wordplay (2014)*, both released by Skyhorse Publishing.

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*Ohio Today* informs, celebrates, and engages alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends of Ohio University.

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## A union without a hitch

Same-sex couples nationwide called the past few months the summer of love, and the state with the slogan, “The Heart of It All,” proved no exception. On July 21, Jeremy Webster (right), dean of the Honors Tutorial College and associate professor of English, and Paul Jones, Crowl Professor of English and departmental graduate studies director, celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary by becoming Athens County’s first same-sex couple to marry legally. They answered e-mail questions about their nuptials. Edited excerpts follow. Read more at [ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras](http://ohio.edu/ohiotoday/extras).



PHOTO BY BEN SIEGEL, BSVC '02,  
WHO ALSO SELECTED THIS PORTRAIT AS  
HIS “STILL MORE” COLUMN.

### *Do you consider yourselves a milestone?*

*Jeremy Webster:* I do. I am the first dean at Ohio University to be an out gay man and to have married his husband. That our community celebrates this event says a lot about the welcoming and progressive nature of Athens and OHIO.

*Paul Jones:* Whoever had been the first same-sex couple to get a marriage license in Athens County would have been a milestone, attesting to a major legal and social change that had occurred in the nation and the state.

### *What has the reaction been like?*

*JW:* The most surprising response has been from former students who celebrated the news on Facebook. We were really touched by ones that said we had been an example of a good, healthy relationship when they were in our classes or worked with us as undergraduates. It made us realize just how visible our relationship has been and how positive that visibility has been.

*PJ:* We got so much response from people everywhere we went: former students, neighbors, colleagues, even strangers. The most notable congratulations were from President McDavis and from the president of the board of trustees.

### *Was there a proposal?*

*JW:* Not really. As soon as the decision was announced—on my 45<sup>th</sup> birthday, no less—I turned to Paul and asked if I could change our Facebook status to “engaged.” He said yes, and that was it!

*PJ:* We had considered ourselves engaged for years. When the Supreme Court ruling came down on June 26, we had CNN on to see the “Breaking News,” and as soon as it was announced, Jeremy asked if he could change our Facebook relationship status to “Engaged” and I said, “I guess.” Because Facebook advertises such changes as Life Events, it got immediately posted to everyone’s newsfeed, and the rest is history.

### *The wedding?*

*PJ:* Small and low-key. In our way of thinking, weddings are something you typically do at the beginning of a relationship to make a public demonstration of your commitment to each other. We felt our 20 years together and the life and home we’d made together already sufficiently did this.

*JW:* We got married at the county courthouse. We invited about a dozen friends, some of whom brought their children. We then had a larger party at Athens Uncorked, one of our favorite recent additions to town. —Lindsey Burrows, BSJ '09, is a freelance writer who teaches English in Ayutthaya, Thailand.





### A GREEN WORLD!



HIO's Center for International Studies recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Here are other numbers pertaining to CIS, which offers bachelor's and master's degrees and certificates in various specializations, and to global education at OHIO. The University teaches more than **20** languages. Roughly **25** international student groups exist on the Athens Campus. OHIO's partnership with Chubu University in Japan began **42** years ago. African Studies, the first CIS program, also turned **50** lately. OHIO's study abroad opportunities span more than **70** countries. China supplies the most international Bobcat students: **900**-plus. OHIO counts approximately **1,800** international undergraduate and graduate students from 117 countries. Upward of **2,400** Bobcat alumni live in Malaysia, more than in any other country outside the U.S. —Office of Global Affairs and International Studies staff report

Camila LeMaster Esquivel, BA '13, MA '15, represents Chile during the parade of nations at the local 2014 International Week street fair. She's currently a William J. Clinton Fellow at the American India Foundation and is based in Kerala, India. PHOTO BY JONATHAN ADAMS, MA '12





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## Reinventing a milestone once more

**I**n October, OHIO's School of Art + Design celebrated the restoration of Aethelred Eldridge's 1966 mural under the archway outside of Seigfried Hall. Considered a local landmark, the work is now in its fourth iteration; Eldridge, professor emeritus of painting at OHIO, made the current version in 1987. Graduate students Barry O'Keefe and Amanda Morris, third-year printmakers, undertook the refurbishment last summer, through funding from Arts for OHIO. The creative endeavor involved scrubbing walls and removing graffiti before touching up the figures, shapes, and lettering. The team consulted historic photos and videos to recreate parts that had been covered up or were no longer visible. David LaPalombara, director of the School of Art + Design, said they took care not to alter the original work wherever possible. PHOTO BY MATTHEW FORSYTHE, BBA '12, BS '14



**COMING NEXT EDITION:**  
*The theme will be OHIO "reinvention."*